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Overview of the Guidance included in this Document for the NGO Sector

Throughout this document, NGO sector-specific materials are highlighted using the following symbols:

- Denotes sector-specific text or commentary on existing G3 Guidelines content
- Denotes commentary on existing G3 Guidelines performance indicator
- Denotes new, sector-specific disclosure on management approach or performance indicator

All of the sector-specific disclosures and performance indicators are considered as core (these are labeled as NGO1, NGO2, NGO3, etc.), and should be included in the content index, in addition to other items reporting organizations choose to report on.

The following tables provide a summary of the NGO sector-specific disclosures, performance indicators, and commentary on the G3 Guidelines that are included in this merged document of the content of the NGO Sector Supplement (“Sector Supplement”) and the G3 Guidelines. The table is organized by category and aspect. For some disclosures and performance indicators, further information on compilations, definitions, and other supporting details can be found in the body of this merged document.

Throughout the NGO Sector Supplement words have been added to increase the applicability of the G3 Guidelines for NGOs.

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<table>
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<th>Context</th>
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<tr>
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<td>2.2 Commentary added to report on primary activities.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.3 Commentary added to include national offices, sections, branches, field offices.</td>
</tr>
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<td>2.6 Commentary added to report on details and current status of not-for-profit registration.</td>
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<td>4.2 Commentary added to report on the division of powers between the highest governance body and the management and/or executives.</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
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<td>4.7 Commentary added to address qualifications and expertise relating to guiding program effectiveness.</td>
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<td>Affected Stakeholder Engagement</td>
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<td>Processes for involvement of affected stakeholder groups in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs.</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
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<td>NGO3</td>
<td>System for program monitoring, evaluation and learning, (including measuring program effectiveness and impact), resulting changes to programs, and how they are communicated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender and Diversity</td>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Market Presence, including Impact on Local Economies</td>
<td>Commentary added to include Impact on Local Economies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NGO Sector-Specific Economic Performance Indicators and Commentary on G3 Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Indicator and Commentary</th>
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<td>Resource Allocation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Performance</td>
<td>EC1 Commentaries added to make the indicator specific to the NGO sector.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Indicator and Commentary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>LA1 Commentary added to include volunteers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commentary added to identify the different categories of volunteers by frequency and function.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commentary added to invite reporting on number of volunteers by type.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reference added.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor/Management Relations</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Health and Safety</td>
<td>LA7 Commentary added to describe the importance of reporting on injury rates of volunteers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Commentary added to include volunteers.</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Commentary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corruptions</td>
<td>S04 Commentary added to describe the importance of reporting on instances of corruption.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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NGO SECTOR-SPECIFIC COMMENTARY ON G3 PRODUCT RESPONSIBILITY DISCLOSURE ON MANAGEMENT APPROACH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Commentary on DMA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marketing Communications</td>
<td>Commentary added to include specific reference to ethical fundraising.</td>
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NGO SECTOR-SPECIFIC COMMENTARY ON G3 PRODUCT RESPONSIBILITY INDICATORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Commentary</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marketing Communications</td>
<td>PR6 Commentary added to invite reporting on complaints of breaches of standard for fundraising and marketing communications.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preface

Sustainable Development and the Transparency Imperative

The goal of sustainable development is to “meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” As key forces in society, organizations of all kinds have an important role to play in achieving this goal.

Yet in this era of unprecedented economic growth, achieving this goal can seem more of an aspiration than a reality. As economies globalize, new opportunities to generate prosperity and quality of life are arising through trade, knowledge-sharing, and access to technology. However, these opportunities are not always available for an ever-increasing human population, and are accompanied by new risks to the stability of the environment. Statistics demonstrating positive improvements in the lives of many people around the world are counter-balanced by alarming information about the state of the environment and the continuing burden of poverty and hunger on millions of people. This contrast creates one of the most pressing dilemmas for the 21st century.

One of the key challenges of sustainable development is that it demands new and innovative choices and ways of thinking. While developments in knowledge and technology are contributing to economic development, they also have the potential to help resolve the risks and threats to the sustainability of our social relations, environment, and economies. New knowledge and innovations in technology, management, and public policy are challenging organizations to make new choices in the way their operations, products, services, and activities impact the earth, people, and economies.

The urgency and magnitude of the risks and threats to our collective sustainability, alongside increasing choice and opportunities, will make transparency about economic, environmental, and social impacts a fundamental component in effective stakeholder relations, investment decisions, and other market relations. To support this expectation, and to communicate clearly and openly about sustainability, a globally shared framework of concepts, consistent language, and metrics is required. It is the Global Reporting Initiative’s (GRI) mission to fulfil this need by providing a trusted and credible framework for sustainability reporting that can be used by organizations of any size, sector, or location.

Transparency about the sustainability of organizational activities is of interest to a diverse range of stakeholders, including business, labor, non-governmental organizations, investors, accountancy, and others. This is why GRI has relied on the collaboration of a large network of experts from all of these stakeholder groups in consensus-seeking consultations. These consultations, together with practical experience, have continuously improved the Reporting Framework since GRI’s founding in 1997. This multi-stakeholder approach to learning has given the Reporting Framework the widespread credibility it enjoys with a range of stakeholder groups.

Introductory Section for the NGO Sector

Who is the Sector Supplement intended for?

The term ‘non-governmental’ is used to describe a wide variety of organizations, which may also be referred to as ‘private voluntary organizations’, ‘civil society organizations’, and ‘not-for-profit organizations’.

The GRI NGO Sector Supplement is intended for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) which are formed for the purpose of serving a cause other than the pursuit or accumulation of profits for owners or investors. NGOs are by nature values-driven but involve a variety of activities (e.g., advocacy, service provision, research) devoted to a broad range of issues (e.g., human rights, environment, humanitarian assistance, development, education) and adopt a broad spectrum of organizational forms (e.g., federations, associations, foundations, coalitions, networks). NGOs may be large or small, raising funds from public and private sources for their own or partner activities. Across the NGO sector there is a diversity of approaches to governance and management and these approaches may differ significantly from those used in other sectors.

The Supplement is a reporting system developed to be applicable principally to international NGOs or medium to large national NGOs. However, the Supplement may be useful to any NGO which wishes to improve its accountability and sustainability. With a little interpretation, any NGO should be able to use the Supplement.

Why is reporting important for the NGO Sector?

The idea for an NGO-specific Supplement to the GRI reporting process came initially from the signatories to the INGO Accountability Charter, reflecting both the commitment of many NGOs to strengthening their public accountability and the increasing public demand for NGOs to be held more accountable. However, this Supplement takes a broader approach, in that it is also intended to enable NGOs to report on the extent to which they act as sustainable organization in society.

The work of NGOs should enhance society’s wellbeing (i.e., what NGOs do) but this also includes a duty on them to undertake this work in a sustainable manner (i.e., how NGOs act). Further, NGOs are prominent among those calling upon other sectors to be held accountable for their impacts on sustainable development. The Guidelines contained in this Supplement are intended to enable NGOs to demonstrably meet the same standards of transparency and disclosure of positive and negative aspects of performance (see 1.2 of G3) that are asked of other sectors. And in this process it is intended that the legitimacy and credibility of NGOs as key contributors to sustainable development be affirmed.

Reporting on sustainability, of which accountability is a key part, is a process which does not begin or end with a printed or online report. The process of reporting provides opportunities to assess an organization’s policies and programs and effectiveness, and the economic, social and environmental impacts of its activities. A common reporting framework allows for information that is frequently otherwise inaccessible to be captured on a broad and comparative basis, helping to generate transparency and positive self-regulatory dynamics. More importantly, through the process of reporting an NGO can critically examine its own activities, benchmark itself with other organizations, learn from experience, and make improvements over time to better serve the causes it pursues.

How does this Supplement fit in with the overall GRI Guidelines?

The Supplement’s content is integrated into the third version of the GRI Sustainability Reporting Guidelines (known as the G3 Guidelines), which aim to provide reporting guidance on key aspects of sustainability performance for all sectors. However, the Supplement broadens the content of the G3 to better reflect the value-driven nature of NGOs, in particular by introducing reporting on program effectiveness. The Supplement can be used by any NGO that wishes to improve its organizational sustainability and its contribution to sustainable development. The anticipated audiences for the reports generated by the NGO sector will vary depending on the nature of the NGO, but are likely to include organizations researching the accountability of NGOs, decision-makers from the government and corporate sectors, other NGOs, existing and potential donors, partners, and affected stakeholders.

The breadth and depth of disclosures and performance indicators suggested in this Supplement may pose challenges for those reporting, especially for new reporters or small and medium NGOs, and it may not be possible to disclose all of the information elicited in this Supplement straight away. Therefore, reporting organizations should...
start by reporting on those indicators that deliver the information that is most relevant and material to their stakeholders, the intended audiences for their reports. Individual NGOs should assess the materiality of each disclosure in the Supplement and how this applies to their unique circumstances.

**Overarching Issues for the Sector**

**The NGO Values Proposition**

The public benefit nature of the NGO sector creates a particular responsibility for NGOs to demonstrate publicly that their operations are consistent with the values they advocate. Demonstrating, through evidence, that an NGO is compliant with its stated values (e.g., values of independence, integrity, participation, transparency, etc.) is a key tool for establishing legitimacy and credibility. With this in mind, the G3 Guidelines have been adapted, through the Supplement, to enable NGOs to highlight the extent of their compliance with their stated values. For example, ‘diversity’ is used not just in regards to labor practices, but in reference to all operations, including program design. The ‘fundraising’ indicators reflect the expectation that NGOs should undertake fundraising in an ethical manner, ensuring their funds are derived from ethical sources and their investments take ethical considerations into account. ‘Work force’ definitions in this Supplement include reference to ‘volunteers’, as they are a significant resource for the sector.

**Governance**

Questions of governance are relevant to all kinds of organizations, but they are of particular concern for NGOs, not only in relation to the ‘values’ to which NGOs aspire but also in terms of the management of resources and performance. Transparency of the governance process and its relationship to an organization’s mission and vision is seen to be of particular importance by NGO’s key stakeholders. It is the expectation of stakeholders that NGO decision-makers ensure that their organization reflects the diversity of the society in which they operate and acts with fairness, equity and integrity in their leadership and management of the organization.

Oversight of financial management in relation to governance is seen by stakeholders as especially important given the fact that many not-for-profit organizations rely on donors or public support. Over and above the responsibility to comply with laws and regulations, there is seen to be a need for high and well-balanced measures of accountability not only to donors but also to key others such as affected stakeholders, the broader community and society at large. In addition, demonstration of short- and long-term financial sustainability provides assurance to stakeholders regarding an organization’s operational continuity, stability, and prospects for maintaining a sustained impact over time.

**Program Effectiveness**

A section dealing with evaluating program effectiveness has been added because of its particular relevance to the sector and also as it is a core element of being accountable. Stakeholders expect that NGOs can demonstrate that they are operating effectively and efficiently in accordance with their stated missions and offering value for money invested by donors. Effectiveness of an organization’s management of its programs and activities is essential in establishing the value that an NGO offers. It can demonstrate the extent of coherence between mission and programs and shows the degree of accountability that and NGO has towards its stakeholders for the outputs and the outcomes it delivers. For those NGOs engaged in advocacy, evaluating their program effectiveness includes being accountable for the positions they take, the methodology they use and approach they follow.

This section is designed for reporting on an organization’s program management, including on its systems and methodologies for monitoring effectiveness, evaluating performance and impact, and for ongoing learning and development. It is not intended for reporting on the actual findings of these processes. NGOs should report on such findings elsewhere.
Overview of Sustainability Reporting

The Purpose of a Sustainability Report

Sustainability reporting is the practice of measuring, disclosing, and being accountable to internal and external stakeholders for organizational performance towards the goal of sustainable development. ‘Sustainability reporting’ is a broad term considered synonymous with others used to describe reporting on economic, environmental, and social impacts (e.g., triple bottom line, corporate responsibility reporting, etc.).

A sustainability report should provide a balanced and reasonable representation of the sustainability performance of a reporting organization – including both positive and negative contributions.

Sustainability reports based on the GRI Reporting Framework disclose outcomes and results that occurred within the reporting period in the context of the organization’s commitments, strategy, and management approach. Reports can be used for the following purposes, among others:

• **Benchmarking** and assessing sustainability performance with respect to laws, norms, codes, performance standards, and voluntary initiatives;

• **Demonstrating** how the organization influences and is influenced by expectations about sustainable development; and

• **Comparing** performance within an organization and between different organizations over time.

Orientation to the GRI Reporting Framework

All GRI Reporting Framework documents are developed using a process that seeks consensus through dialogue between stakeholders from business, the investor community, labor, civil society, accounting, academia, and others. All Reporting Framework documents are subject to testing and continuous improvement.

The GRI Reporting Framework is intended to serve as a generally accepted framework for reporting on an organization’s economic, environmental, and social performance. It is designed for use by organizations of any size, sector, or location. It takes into account the practical considerations faced by a diverse range of organizations – from small enterprises to those with extensive and geographically dispersed operations. The GRI Reporting Framework contains general and sector-specific content that has been agreed by a wide range of stakeholders around the world to be generally applicable for reporting an organization’s sustainability performance.

The Sustainability Reporting Guidelines (the Guidelines) consist of Principles for defining report content and ensuring the quality of reported information. It also includes Standard Disclosures made up of Performance Indicators and other disclosure items, as well as guidance on specific technical topics in reporting.
Indicator Protocols exist for each of the Performance Indicators contained in the Guidelines. These Protocols provide definitions, compilation guidance, and other information to assist report preparers and to ensure consistency in the interpretation of the Performance Indicators. Users of the Guidelines should also use the Indicator Protocols.

Sector Supplements complement the Guidelines with interpretations and guidance on how to apply the Guidelines in a given sector, and include sector-specific Performance Indicators. Applicable Sector Supplements should be used in addition to the Guidelines rather than in place of the Guidelines.

Technical Protocols are created to provide guidance on issues in reporting, such as setting the report boundary. They are designed to be used in conjunction with the Guidelines and Sector Supplements and cover issues that face most organizations during the reporting process.

Orientation to the GRI Guidelines
The Sustainability Reporting Guidelines consist of Reporting Principles, Reporting Guidance, and Standard Disclosures (including Performance Indicators). These elements are considered to be of equal in weight and importance.

Part 1 – Reporting Principles and Guidance
Three main elements of the reporting process are described in Part 1. To help determine what to report on, this section covers the Reporting Principles of materiality, stakeholder inclusiveness, sustainability context, and completeness, along with a brief set of tests for each Principle. Application of these Principles with the Standard Disclosures determines the topics and Indicators to be reported. This is followed by Principles of balance, comparability, accuracy, timeliness, reliability, and clarity, along with tests that can be used to help achieve the appropriate quality of the reported information. This section concludes with guidance for reporting organizations on how to define the range of entities represented by the report (also called the 'Report Boundary').
Part 2 – Standard Disclosures

Part 2 contains the Standard Disclosures that should be included in sustainability reports. The Guidelines identify information that is relevant and material to most organizations and of interest to most stakeholders for reporting the three types of Standard Disclosures:

- **Strategy and Profile**: Disclosures that set the overall context for understanding organizational performance such as its strategy, profile, and governance.

- **Management Approach**: Disclosures that cover how an organization addresses a given set of topics in order to provide context for understanding performance in a specific area.

- **Performance Indicators**: Indicators that elicit comparable information on the economic, environmental, and social performance of the organization.

Applying the Guidelines

Getting Started

All organizations (private, public, or non-profit) are encouraged to report against the Guidelines whether they are beginners or experienced reporters, and regardless of their size, sector, or location. Reporting can take various forms, including web or print, stand alone or combined with annual or financial reports.

The first step is to determine report content. Guidance for this is provided in Part 1. Some organizations may choose to introduce reporting against the full GRI Reporting Framework from the outset, while others may want to start with the most feasible and practical topics first and phase in reporting on other topics over time. All reporting organizations should describe the scope of their reporting and are encouraged to indicate their plans for expanding their reporting over time.

GRI Application Levels

Upon finalization of their report, preparers should declare the level to which they have applied the GRI Reporting Framework via the “GRI Application Levels” system. This system aims to provide:

- **Report readers** with clarity about the extent to which the GRI Guidelines and other Reporting Framework elements have been applied in the preparation of a report.

- **Report preparers** with a vision or path for incrementally expanding application of the GRI Reporting Framework over time.

Declaring an Application Level results in a clear communication about which elements of the GRI Reporting Framework have been applied in the preparation of a report. To meet the needs of new beginners, advanced reporters, and those somewhere in between, there are three levels in the system. They are titled C, B, and A. The reporting criteria found in each level reflects an increasing application or coverage of the GRI Reporting Framework. An organization can self-declare a “plus” (+) at each level (ex., C+, B+, A+) if they have utilized external assurance.4

An organization self-declares a reporting level based on its own assessment of its report content against the criteria in the GRI Application Levels.

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4 See the assurance section under General Reporting Notes for more information on options for assurance.
In addition to the self declaration, reporting organizations can choose one or both of the following options:

- Have an assurance provider offer an opinion on the self-declaration.
- Request that the GRI check the self-declaration.

For more information on Application Levels, and the complete criteria, see the GRI Applications Level information pack available as an insert to this document, or found online at www.globalreporting.org.

**Request for notification of use**

Organizations that have used the Guidelines and/or other elements of the GRI Reporting Framework as the basis for their report are requested to notify the Global Reporting Initiative upon its release. While notifying GRI, organizations can choose any or all of the following options:

- Simply notify the GRI of the report and provide hard and/or soft copy
- Register their report in GRI’s online database of reports
- Request GRI check their self-declared Application Level.

**Maximizing Report Value**

Sustainability reporting is a living process and tool, and does not begin or end with a printed or online publication. Reporting should fit into a broader process for setting organizational strategy, implementing action plans, and assessing outcomes. Reporting enables a robust assessment of the organization’s performance, and can support continuous improvement in performance over time. It also serves as a tool for engaging with stakeholders and securing useful input to organizational processes.

**Part 1: Defining Report Content, Quality, and Boundary**

This section provides Reporting Principles and Reporting Guidance regarding defining report content, ensuring the quality of reported information, and setting the Report Boundary.

Reporting Guidance describes actions that can be taken, or options that the reporting organization can consider when making decisions on what to report on, and generally helps interpret or govern the use of the GRI Reporting Framework. Guidance is provided for defining report content and setting report Boundary.

Reporting Principles describe the outcomes a report should achieve and guide decisions throughout the reporting process, such as selecting which topics and Indicators to report on and how to report on them. Each of the Principles consists of a definition, an explanation, and a set of tests for the reporting organization to assess its use of the Principles. The tests are intended to serve as tools for self-diagnosis, but not as specific disclosures to report against. Tests can, however, serve as a reference for explaining decisions about the application of the Principles.

Together, the Principles are intended to help achieve transparency – a value and a goal that underlies all aspects of sustainability reporting. Transparency can be defined as the complete disclosure of information on the topics and Indicators required to reflect impacts and enable stakeholders to make decisions, and the processes, procedures, and assumptions used to prepare those disclosures. The Principles themselves are organized into two groups:

- Principles for determining the topics and Indicators on which the organization should report; and
- Principles for ensuring the quality and appropriate presentation of reported information.

The Principles have been grouped in this way to help clarify their role and function, but this does not impose a rigid restriction on their use. Each Principle can support a range of decisions, and may prove useful in considering questions beyond just defining report content or ensuring the quality of reported information.
1.1 Defining Report Content

In order to ensure a balanced and reasonable presentation of the organization’s performance, a determination must be made about what content the report should cover. This determination should be made by considering both the organization’s purpose and experience, and the reasonable expectations and interests of the organization’s stakeholders. Both are important reference points when deciding what to include in the report.

Reporting Guidance for Defining Content

The following approach governs the use of the GRI Reporting Framework in preparing sustainability reports.

- Identify the topics and related Indicators that are relevant, and therefore might be appropriate to report, by undergoing an iterative process using the Principles of materiality, stakeholder inclusiveness, sustainability context, and guidance on setting the Report Boundary.

- When identifying topics, consider the relevance of all Indicator Aspects identified in the GRI Guidelines and applicable Sector Supplements. Also consider other topics, if any, that are relevant to report.

- From the set of relevant topics and Indicators identified, use the tests listed for each Principle to assess which topics and Indicators are material, and therefore should be reported.

- Use the Principles to prioritize selected topics and decide which will be emphasized.

- The specific methods or processes used for assessing materiality should:
  - Differ for, and can be defined by, each organization;
  - Always take into account the guidance and tests found in the GRI Reporting Principles; and
  - Be disclosed.

In applying this approach:

- Differentiate between Core and Additional Indicators. All Indicators have been developed through GRI’s multi-stakeholder processes, and those designated as Core are generally applicable Indicators and are assumed to be material for most organizations. An organization should report on these unless they are deemed not material on the basis of the Reporting Principles. Additional Indicators may also be determined to be material.

- The Indicators in final versions of Sector Supplements are considered to be Core Indicators, and should be applied using the same approach as the Core Indicators found in the Guidelines.

- All other information (e.g., company specific Indicators) included in the report should be subject to the same Reporting Principles and have the same technical rigor as GRI Standard Disclosures.

- Confirm that the information to be reported and the Report Boundary are appropriate by applying the Principle of completeness.

Options for Reporting

Figure 3: Principles for defining report Content

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5 GRI Organizational Profile Disclosures (1-4) apply to all reporting organizations.
**Reporting Principles for Defining Content**

Each of the Reporting Principles consists of a definition, an explanation, and a set of tests to guide the use of the Principles. The tests are intended to serve as tools for self-diagnosis, but not as specific Disclosure items to report against. The Principles should be used together with the guidance on defining content.

**MATERIALITY**

**Definition:** The information in a report should cover topics and Indicators that reflect the organization's significant economic, environmental, and social impacts, or that would substantively influence the assessments and decisions of stakeholders.

**Explanation:** Organizations are faced with a wide range of topics on which it could report. Relevant topics and Indicators are those that may reasonably be considered important for reflecting the organization's economic, environmental, and social impacts, or influencing the decisions of stakeholders, and, therefore, potentially merit inclusion in the report. Materiality is the threshold at which an issue or Indicator becomes sufficiently important that it should be reported. Beyond this threshold, not all material topics will be of equal importance and the emphasis within a report should reflect the relative priority of these material topics and indicators.

In financial reporting, materiality is commonly thought of as a threshold for influencing the economic decisions of those using an organization's financial statements, investors in particular. The concept of a threshold is also important in sustainability reporting, but it is concerned with a wider range of impacts and stakeholders. Materiality for sustainability reporting is not limited only to those sustainability topics that have a significant financial impact on the organization. Determining materiality for a sustainability report also includes considering economic, environmental, and social impacts that cross a threshold in affecting the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations. These material issues will often have a significant financial impact in the near-term or long-term on an organization. They will therefore also be relevant for stakeholders who focus strictly on the financial condition of an organization.

A combination of internal and external factors should be used to determine whether information is material, including factors such as the organization's overall mission and competitive strategy, concerns expressed directly by stakeholders, broader social expectations, and the organization's influence on upstream (e.g., supply chain) and downstream (e.g., customers) entities. Assessments of materiality should also take into account the basic expectations expressed in the international standards and agreements with which the organization is expected to comply.

These internal and external factors should be considered when evaluating the importance of information for reflecting significant economic, environmental, and social impacts, or stakeholder decision making. A range of established methodologies can be used to assess the significance of impacts. In general, ‘significant impacts’ refer to those that are a subject of established concern for expert communities, or that have been identified using established tools such as impact assessment methodologies or life cycle assessments. Impacts that are considered important enough to require active management or engagement by the organization can likely be considered to be significant.

The report should emphasize information on performance regarding the most material topics. Other relevant topics can be included, but should be given less prominence in the report. The process by which the relative priority of topics was determined should be explained.

In addition to guiding the selection of topics to report, the Materiality Principle also applies to the use of Performance Indicators. When disclosing performance data, there are

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7 See the Principle of stakeholder inclusion for a discussion of stakeholders.
varying degrees of comprehensiveness and detail that could be provided in a report. In some cases, GRI guidance exists on the level of detail generally considered appropriate for a specific Indicator. Overall, decisions on how to report data should be guided by the importance of the information for assessing the performance of the organization, and facilitating appropriate comparisons.

Reporting on material topics may involve disclosing information used by external stakeholders that differs from the information used internally for day-to-day management purposes. However, such information does indeed belong in a report, where it can inform assessments or decision-making by stakeholders, or support engagement with stakeholders that can result in actions that would significantly influence performance or address key topics of stakeholder concern.

**Tests**

**External Factors**

In defining material topics, take into account external factors, including:

- Main sustainability interests/topics and Indicators raised by stakeholders.
- The main topics and future challenges for the sector reported by peers and competitors.
- Relevant laws, regulations, international agreements, or voluntary agreements with strategic significance to the organization and its stakeholders.
- Reasonably estimable sustainability impacts, risks, or opportunities (e.g., global warming, HIV-AIDS, poverty) identified through sound investigation by people with recognized expertise, or by expert bodies with recognized credentials in the field.

**Internal Factors**

In defining material topics, take into account internal factors, including:

- Key organizational values, policies, strategies, operational management systems, goals, and targets.
- The interests/expectations of stakeholders specifically invested in the success of the organization (e.g., employees, shareholders, and suppliers).
- Significant risks to the organization.
- Critical factors for enabling organizational success.
- The core competencies of the organization and the manner in which they can or could contribute to sustainable development.

**Prioritizing**

- The report prioritizes material topics and Indicators.
STAKEHOLDER INCLUSIVENESS

Definition: The reporting organization should identify its stakeholders and explain in the report how it has responded to their reasonable expectations and interests.

Explanation: Stakeholders are defined as entities or individuals that can reasonably be expected to be significantly affected by the organization’s activities, products, and/or services; and whose actions can reasonably be expected to affect the ability of the organization to successfully implement its strategies and achieve its objectives. This includes entities or individuals whose rights under law or international conventions provide them with legitimate claims vis-à-vis the organization.

Stakeholders can include those who are invested in the organization (e.g., employees, shareholders, suppliers) as well as those who are external to the organization (e.g., communities).

The reasonable expectations and interests of stakeholders are a key reference point for many decisions in the preparation of a report, such as the scope, boundary, application of Indicators, and assurance approach. However, not all of an organization’s stakeholders will use the report. This presents challenges in balancing the specific interests/expectations of stakeholders who can reasonably be expected to use the report with broader expectations of accountability to all stakeholders.

For some decisions, such as the report scope or boundary of a report, the reasonable expectations and interests of a wide range of stakeholders will need to be considered. There may be, for example, stakeholders who are unable to articulate their views on a report and whose concerns are presented by proxies. There may also be stakeholders who choose not to express views on reports because they rely on different means of communication and engagement. The reasonable expectations and interests of these stakeholders should still be acknowledged in decisions about the content of the report. However, other decisions, such as the level of detail required to be useful to stakeholders, or expectations of different stakeholders about what is required to achieve clarity, may require greater emphasis on those who can reasonably be expected to use the report. It is important to document the processes and approach taken in making these decisions.

Stakeholder engagement processes can serve as tools for understanding the reasonable expectations and interests of stakeholders. Organizations typically initiate different types of stakeholder engagement as part of their regular activities, which can provide useful inputs for decisions on reporting. These may include, for example, stakeholder engagement for the purpose of compliance with internationally-agreed standards, or informing ongoing organizational/business processes. In addition, stakeholder engagement may also be implemented specifically to inform the report preparation process. Organizations can also use other means such as the media, the scientific community, or collaborative activities with peers and stakeholders. These means can help the organization better understand stakeholders’ reasonable expectations and interests.

For a report to be assurable, the process of stakeholder engagement should be documented. When stakeholder engagement processes are used for reporting purposes, they should be based on systematic or generally-accepted approaches, methodologies, or principles. The overall approach should be sufficiently effective to ensure that stakeholders’ information needs are properly understood. The reporting organization should document its approach for defining which stakeholders it engaged with, how and when it engaged with them, and how engagement has influenced the report content and the organization’s sustainability activities. These processes should be capable of identifying direct input from stakeholders as well as legitimately established societal expectations. An organization may encounter conflicting views or differing expectations among its stakeholders, and will need to be able to explain how it balanced these in reaching its reporting decisions.

Failure to identify and engage with stakeholders is likely to result in reports that are not suitable, and therefore not fully credible, to all stakeholders. In contrast, systematic stakeholder engagement enhances stakeholder receptivity and the usefulness of the report. Executed properly, it is likely to result in ongoing learning within the organization and by external parties, as well as increase accountability to a range of stakeholders. Accountability strengthens trust between the reporting organization and its stakeholders. Trust, in turn, fortifies report credibility.
**Tests:**

- The organization can describe the stakeholders to whom it considers itself accountable.
- The report content draws upon the outcomes of stakeholder engagement processes used by the organization in its ongoing activities, and as required by the legal and institutional framework in which it operates.
- The report content draws upon the outcomes of any stakeholder engagement processes undertaken specifically for the report.
- The stakeholder engagement processes that inform decisions about the report are consistent with the scope and boundary of the report.

**SUSTAINABILITY CONTEXT**

**Definition:** The report should present the organization’s performance in the wider context of sustainability.

**Explanation:** Information on performance should be placed in context. The underlying question of sustainability reporting is how an organization contributes, or aims to contribute in the future, to the improvement or deterioration of economic, environmental, and social conditions, developments, and trends at the local, regional, or global level. Reporting only on trends in individual performance (or the efficiency of the organization) will fail to respond to this underlying question. Reports should therefore seek to present performance in relation to broader concepts of sustainability. This will involve discussing the performance of the organization in the context of the limits and demands placed on environmental or social resources at the sectoral, local, regional, or global level. For example, this could mean that in addition to reporting on trends in eco-efficiency, an organization might also present its absolute pollution loading in relation to the capacity of the regional ecosystem to absorb the pollutant.

This concept is often most clearly articulated in the environmental arena in terms of global limits on resource use and pollution levels. However, it can also be relevant with respect to social and economic objectives such as national or international socio-economic and sustainable development goals. For example, an organization could report on employee wages and social benefit levels in relation to nation-wide minimum and median income levels and the capacity of social safety nets to absorb those in poverty or those living close to the poverty line. Organizations operating in a diverse range of locations, sizes, and sectors will need to consider how to best frame their overall organizational performance in the broader context of sustainability. This may require distinguishing between topics or factors that drive global impacts (such as climate change) and those that have more regional or local impacts (such as community development). Similarly, distinctions might need to be made between trends or patterns of impacts across the range of operations versus contextualizing performance location by location.

The organization’s own sustainability and business strategy provides the context in which to discuss performance. The relationship between sustainability and organizational strategy should be made clear, as should the context within which performance is reported.
Tests:

☑ The organization presents its understanding of sustainable development and draws on objective and available information as well as measures of sustainable development for the topics covered in the report.

☑ The organization presents its performance with reference to broader sustainable development conditions and goals, as reflected in recognized sectoral, local, regional, and/or global publications.

☑ The organization presents its performance in a manner that attempts to communicate the magnitude of its impact and contribution in appropriate geographical contexts.

☑ The report describes how sustainability topics relate to long-term organizational strategy, risks, and opportunities, including supply-chain topics.

Completeness

Definition: Coverage of the material topics and Indicators and definition of the report boundary should be sufficient to reflect significant economic, environmental, and social impacts and enable stakeholders to assess the reporting organization’s performance in the reporting period.

Explanation: Completeness primarily encompasses the dimensions of scope, boundary, and time. The concept of completeness can also be used to refer to practices in information collection (for example, ensuring that compiled data includes results from all sites within the Report Boundary) and whether the presentation of information is reasonable and appropriate. These topics are related to report quality, and are addressed in greater detail under the Principles of accuracy and balance later in Part 1.

Scope refers to the range of sustainability topics covered in a report. The sum of the topics and Indicators reported should be sufficient to reflect significant economic, environmental, and social impacts. It should also enable stakeholders to assess the organization’s performance. In determining whether the information in the report is sufficient, the organization should consider both the results of stakeholder engagement processes and broad-based societal expectations that may not have surfaced directly through stakeholder engagement processes.

‘Boundary’ refers to the range of entities (e.g., subsidiaries, joint ventures, sub-contractors, etc.) whose performance is represented by the report. In setting the boundary for its report, an organization must consider the range of entities over which it exercises control (often referred to as the ‘organizational boundary’, and usually linked to definitions used in financial reporting) and over which it exercises influence (often called the ‘operational boundary’). In assessing influence, the organization will need to consider its ability to influence entities upstream (e.g., in its supply chain) as well as entities downstream (e.g., distributors and users of its products and services). The boundary may vary based on the specific Aspect or type of information being reported.

‘Time’ refers to the need for the selected information to be complete for the time period specified by the report. As far as practicable, activities, events, and impacts should be presented for the reporting period in which they occur. This includes reporting on activities that produce minimal short-term impact, but which have
a significant and reasonably foreseeable cumulative effect that may become unavoidable or irreversible in the longer term (e.g., bio-accumulative or persistent pollutants). In making estimates of future impacts (both positive and negative), the reported information should be based on well-reasoned estimates that reflect the likely size, nature, and scope of impacts. Although such estimates are by nature subject to uncertainty, they can provide useful information for decision-making as long as the basis for estimates is clearly disclosed and the limitations of the estimates are clearly acknowledged. Disclosing the nature and likelihood of such impacts, even if they may only materialize in the future, is consistent with the goal of providing a balanced and reasonable representation of the organization’s economic, environmental, and social performance.

1.2 Reporting Principles for Defining Quality

This section contains Principles that guide choices on ensuring the quality of reported information, including its proper presentation. Decisions related to the process of preparing information in a report should be consistent with these Principles. All of these Principles are fundamental for effective transparency. The quality of information enables stakeholders to make sound and reasonable assessments of performance, and take appropriate action.

Reporting Principles for Defining Quality

BALANCE

Definition: The report should reflect positive and negative aspects of the organization’s performance to enable a reasoned assessment of overall performance.

Explanation: The overall presentation of the report’s content should provide an unbiased picture of the reporting organization’s performance. The report should avoid selections, omissions, or presentation formats that are reasonably likely to unduly or inappropriately influence a decision or judgment by the report reader. The report should include both favorable and unfavorable results, as well as topics that can influence the decisions of stakeholders in proportion to their materiality. Reports should clearly distinguish between factual presentation and the reporting organization’s interpretation of information.

Tests:

☑ The report discloses both favorable and unfavorable results and topics.

☑ The information in the report is presented in a format that allows users to see positive and negative trends in performance on a year-to-year basis.

☑ The emphasis on the various topics in the report is proportionate to their relative materiality.
COMPARABILITY

**Definition:** Issues and information should be selected, compiled, and reported consistently. Reported information should be presented in a manner that enables stakeholders to analyze changes in the organization’s performance over time, and could support analysis relative to other organizations.

**Explanation:** Comparability is necessary for evaluating performance. Stakeholders using the report should be able to compare information reported on economic, environmental, and social performance against the organization’s past performance, its objectives, and, to the degree possible, against the performance of other organizations. Consistency in reporting allows internal and external parties to benchmark performance and assess progress as part of rating activities, investment decisions, advocacy programs, and other activities. Comparisons between organizations require sensitivity to factors such as differences in organizational size, geographic influences, and other considerations that may affect the relative performance of an organization. Where necessary, report preparers should consider providing context that will help report users understand the factors that may contribute to differences in performance between organizations.

Maintaining consistency with the methods used to calculate data, with the layout of the report, and with explaining the methods and assumptions used to prepare information, all facilitates comparability over time. As the relative importance of topics to a given organization and its stakeholders change over time, the content of reports will also evolve. However, within the confines of the Principle of Materiality, organizations should aim for consistency in their reports over time. An organization should include total numbers (i.e., absolute data such as tons of waste) as well as ratios (i.e., normalized data such as waste per unit of production) to enable analytical comparisons.

When changes occur with the boundary, scope, length of the reporting period, or content (including the design, definitions, and use of any indicators in the report), reporting organizations should, whenever practicable, restate current disclosures alongside historical data (or vice versa). This ensures that information and comparisons are both reliable and meaningful over time. Where such restatements are not provided, the report should explain the reasons and implications for interpreting current disclosures.

**Tests:**

- The report and the information contained within it can be compared on a year-to-year basis.
- The organization’s performance can be compared with appropriate benchmarks.
- Any significant variation between reporting periods in the boundary, scope, length of reporting period, or information covered in the report can be identified and explained.

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Figure 5: Principles for Ensuring Report Quality
Where they are available, the report utilizes generally accepted protocols for compiling, measuring, and presenting information, including the GRI Technical Protocols for Indicators contained in the Guidelines.

The report uses GRI Sector Supplements, where available.

**ACCURACY**

**Definition:** The reported information should be sufficiently accurate and detailed for stakeholders to assess the reporting organization’s performance.

**Explanation:** Responses to economic, environmental, and social topics and Indicators can be expressed in many different ways, ranging from qualitative responses to detailed quantitative measurements. The characteristics that determine accuracy vary according to the nature of the information and the user of the information. For example, the accuracy of qualitative information is largely determined by the degree of clarity, detail, and balance in presentation within the appropriate Report Boundary. The accuracy of quantitative information, on the other hand, may depend on the specific methods used to gather, compile, and analyze data. The specific threshold of accuracy that is necessary will depend partly on the intended use of the information. Certain decisions will require higher levels of accuracy in reported information than others.

**Tests:**

- The report indicates the data that has been measured.
- The data measurement techniques and bases for calculations are adequately described, and can be replicated with similar results.
- The margin of error for quantitative data is not sufficient to substantially influence the ability of stakeholders to reach appropriate and informed conclusions on performance.
- The report indicates which data has been estimated and the underlying assumptions and techniques used to produce the estimates, or where that information can be found.
- The qualitative statements in the report are valid on the basis of other reported information and other available evidence.
TIMELINESS

Definition: Reporting occurs on a regular schedule and information is available in time for stakeholders to make informed decisions.

Explanation: The usefulness of information is closely tied to whether the timing of its disclosure to stakeholders enables them to effectively integrate it into their decision-making. The timing of release refers both to the regularity of reporting as well as its proximity to the actual events described in the report.

Although a constant flow of information is desirable for meeting certain purposes, reporting organizations should commit to regularly providing a consolidated disclosure of their economic, environmental, and social performance at a single point in time. Consistency in the frequency of reporting and the length of reporting periods is also necessary to ensure comparability of information over time and accessibility of the report to stakeholders. It can be of value for stakeholders if the schedules for sustainability reporting and financial reporting are aligned. The organization should balance the need to provide information in a timely manner with the importance of ensuring that the information is reliable.

Tests:

☑ Information in the report has been disclosed while it is recent relative to the reporting period.

☑ The collection and publication of key performance information is aligned with the sustainability reporting schedule.

☑ The information in the report (including web-based reports) clearly indicates the time period to which it relates, when it will be updated, and when the last updates were made.

CLARITY

Definition: Information should be made available in a manner that is understandable and accessible to stakeholders using the report.

Explanation: The report should present information in a way that is understandable, accessible, and usable by the organization’s range of stakeholders (whether in print form or through other channels). A stakeholder should be able to find desired information without unreasonable effort. Information should be presented in a manner that is comprehensible to stakeholders who have a reasonable understanding of the organization and its activities. Graphics and consolidated data tables can help make the information in the report accessible and understandable. The level of aggregation of information can also affect the clarity of a report if it is either significantly more or less detailed than stakeholders expect.

Tests:

☑ The report contains the level of information required by stakeholders, but avoids excessive and unnecessary detail.

☑ Stakeholders can find the specific information they want without unreasonable effort through tables of contents, maps, links, or other aids.

☑ The report avoids technical terms, acronyms, jargon, or other content likely to be unfamiliar to stakeholders, and should include explanations (where necessary) in the relevant section or in a glossary.

☑ The data and information in the report is available to stakeholders, including those with particular accessibility needs (e.g., differing abilities, language, or technology).
RELIABILITY

Definition: Information and processes used in the preparation of a report should be gathered, recorded, compiled, analyzed, and disclosed in a way that could be subject to examination and that establishes the quality and materiality of the information.

Explanation: Stakeholders should have confidence that a report could be checked to establish the veracity of its contents and the extent to which it has appropriately applied Reporting Principles. The information and data included in a report should be supported by internal controls or documentation that could be reviewed by individuals other than those who prepared the report. Disclosures about performance that are not substantiated by evidence should not appear in a sustainability report unless they represent material information, and the report provides unambiguous explanations of any uncertainties associated with the information. The decision-making processes underlying a report should be documented in a manner that allows the basis of key decisions (such as processes for determining the report content and boundary or stakeholder engagement) to be examined. In designing information systems, reporting organizations should anticipate that the systems could be examined as part of an external assurance process.

Tests:

☑ The scope and extent of external assurance is identified.

☑ The original source of the information in the report can be identified by the organization.

☑ Reliable evidence to support assumptions or complex calculations can be identified by the organization.

☑ Representation is available from the original data or information owners, attesting to its accuracy within acceptable margins of error.

1.3 Reporting Guidance for Boundary Setting

In parallel with defining the content of a report, an organization must determine which entities’ (e.g., subsidiaries and joint ventures) performance will be represented by the report. The Sustainability Report Boundary should include the entities over which the reporting organization exercises control or significant influence both in and through its relationships with various entities upstream (e.g., supply chain) and downstream (e.g., distribution and customers).

For the purpose of setting boundaries, the following definitions should apply:

- Control: the power to govern the financial and operating policies of an enterprise so as to obtain benefits from its activities.
- Significant influence: the power to participate in the financial and operating policy decisions of the entity but not the power to control those policies.

The guidance below on setting the Report Boundary pertains to the report as a whole as well as setting the boundary for individual Performance Indicators.

Not all entities within the Report Boundary must be reported on in the same manner. The approach to reporting on an entity will depend on a combination of the reporting organization’s control or influence over the entity, and whether the disclosure relates to operational performance, management performance, or narrative/descriptive information.

The Report Boundary guidance is based on the recognition that different relationships involve differing degrees of access to information and the ability to affect outcomes. For example, operational information such as emissions data can be reliably compiled from entities under the control of an organization, but may not be available for a joint venture or a supplier. The Report Boundary guidance below sets minimum expectations for the inclusion of entities upstream and downstream when reporting on Indicators and management disclosures. However, an organization may determine that it is necessary to extend the boundary for an Indicator(s) to include entities upstream or downstream.

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8 The guidance on Report Boundary has been derived from the Boundary Protocol. Future updates to the Guidelines will incorporate any further lessons or guidance developed from experience with the Reporting Boundary Protocol.

9 Further discussion of these terms can be found in the Boundary Protocol.
Determining the significance of an entity when collecting information or considering the extension of a boundary depends on the scale of its sustainability impacts. Entities with significant impacts typically generate the greatest risk or opportunity for an organization and its stakeholders, and therefore are the entities for which the organization is most likely to be perceived as being accountable or responsible.

**Reporting Guidance for Boundary Setting**

- A sustainability report should include in its boundary all entities that generate significant sustainability impacts (actual and potential) and/or all entities over which the reporting organization exercises control or significant influence with regard to financial and operating policies and practices.
- These entities can be included using either Indicators of operational performance, Indicators of management performance, or narrative descriptions.
- At a minimum, the reporting organization should include the following entities in its report using these approaches:
  - Entities over which the organization exercises control should be covered by Indicators of Operational Performance; and
  - Entities over which the organization exercises significant influence should be covered by Disclosures on Management Approach.

![Decision Tree for Boundary Setting](image-url)

**Figure 6: Decision Tree for Boundary Setting**
Part 2: Standard Disclosures

This section specifies the base content that should appear in a sustainability report, subject to the guidance on determining content in Part 1 of the Guidelines.

There are three different types of disclosures contained in this section.

- **Strategy and Profile**: Disclosures that set the overall context for understanding organizational performance such as its strategy, profile, and governance.

- **Management Approach**: Disclosures that cover how an organization addresses a given set of topics in order to provide context for understanding performance in a specific area.

- **Performance Indicators**: Indicators that elicit comparable information on the economic, environmental, and social performance of the organization.

Reporting organizations are encouraged to follow this structure in compiling their reports, however, other formats may be chosen.
Profile

1. Strategy and Analysis

This section is intended to provide a high-level, strategic view of the organization's relationship to sustainability in order to provide context for subsequent and more detailed reporting against other sections of the Guidelines. It may draw on information provided in other parts of the report, but this section is intended to produce insight on strategic topics rather than simply summarize the contents of the report. The strategy and analysis should consist of the statement outlined in 1.1 and a concise narrative outlined in 1.2.

1.1 Statement from the most senior decision-maker of the organization (e.g., Executive Director, Secretary General, CEO, chair, or equivalent senior position) about the relevance of sustainability to the organization and its strategy.

The statement should present the overall vision and strategy for the short-term, medium-term (e.g., 3-5 years), and long-term, particularly with regard to managing the key challenges associated with economic, environmental, and social performance. The statement should include:

- Strategic priorities and key topics for the short/medium-term with regard to sustainability, including respect for internationally agreed standards and how they relate to long-term organizational strategy and success;
- Broader trends (e.g., macroeconomic or political) affecting the organization and influencing sustainability priorities;
- Key events, achievements, and failures during the reporting period;
- Views on performance with respect to goals, objectives, standards, and/or targets;
- Outlook on the organization's main challenges and targets for the next year and goals for the coming 3-5 years; and
- Other items pertaining to the organization's strategic approach.

1.2 Description of key impacts, risks, and opportunities.

The reporting organization should provide two concise narrative sections on key impacts, risks, and opportunities.

Section One should focus on the organization's key impacts on sustainability and effects on stakeholders, including rights as defined by national laws and relevant internationally agreed standards. This should take into account the range of reasonable expectations and interests of the organization's stakeholders. This section should include:

- A description of the significant impacts the organization has on sustainability and associated challenges and opportunities. This includes the effect on stakeholders' rights as defined by national laws and the expectations in internationally-agreed standards and norms;
- An explanation of the approach to prioritizing these challenges and opportunities;
- Key conclusions about progress in addressing these topics and related performance in the reporting period. This includes an assessment of reasons for underperformance or over-performance; and
- A description of the main processes in place to address performance and/or relevant changes.

Section Two should focus on the impact of sustainability trends, risks, and opportunities on the long-term prospects and financial performance of the organization. This should concentrate specifically on information relevant to financial stakeholders or that could become so in the future. Section Two should include the following:

- A description of the most important risks and opportunities for the organization arising from sustainability trends;
- Prioritization of key sustainability topics as risks and opportunities according to their relevance for long-term organizational strategy, competitive position, qualitative, and (if possible) quantitative financial value drivers;
- Table(s) summarizing:
  - Targets, performance against targets, and lessons-learned for the current reporting period; and
  - Targets for the next reporting period and mid-term objectives and goals (i.e., 3-5 years) related to key risks and opportunities.
- Concise description of governance mechanisms in place to specifically manage these risks and opportunities, and identification of other related risks and opportunities.
2. Organizational Profile

2.1 Name of the organization.

2.2 Primary activities (e.g., advocacy, social marketing, research, service provision, capacity building, humanitarian assistance, etc.). Indicate how these activities relate to the organization’s mission and primary strategic goals (e.g., on poverty reduction, environment, human rights, etc.).

Primary brands, products, and/or services.

The reporting organization should indicate the nature of its role in providing these products and services, and the degree to which it utilizes outsourcing.

2.3 Operational structure of the organization, including (national offices, sections, branches, field offices) main divisions, operating companies, subsidiaries, and joint ventures.

2.4 Location of organization’s headquarters.

2.5 Number of countries where the organization operates, and names of countries with either major operations or that are specifically relevant to the sustainability issues covered in the report.

2.6 Nature of ownership and legal form.

Details and current status of not-for-profit registration.

2.7 Target audience and affected stakeholders.

Markets served (including geographic breakdown, sectors served, and types of affected stakeholders/customers/beneficiaries).

2.8 Scale of the reporting organization, including:

- Number of members and/or supporters;
- Number of volunteers (estimate numbers per category of volunteer – see LA1);
- Total income;
- Number of employees;
- Net sales (for private sector organizations) or net revenues (for public sector organizations);
- Total capitalization (report net assets broken down in terms of debt and equity or report in terms of assets and liabilities (for private sector organizations); and
- Scope and scale of activities, or quantity of products or services provided.

In addition to the above, reporting organizations are encouraged to provide additional information, as appropriate, such as:

- Total assets;
- Beneficial ownership (including identity and percentage of ownership of largest shareholders); and
- Breakdowns by country/region of the following:
  - Sales/revenues by countries/regions that make up 5 percent or more of total revenues;
  - Costs by countries/regions that make up 5 percent or more of total revenues; and
  - Employees.

2.9 Significant changes during the reporting period regarding size, structure, or ownership including:

- The location of, or changes in operations, including facility openings, closings, and expansions; and
- Changes in the share capital structure and other capital formation, maintenance, and alteration operations (for private sector organizations).

2.10 Awards received in the reporting period.

3. Report Parameters

REPORT PROFILE

3.1 Reporting period (e.g., fiscal/calendar year) for information provided.

3.2 Date of most recent previous report (if any).

3.3 Reporting cycle (annual, biennial, etc.)

3.4 Contact point for questions regarding the report or its contents.

REPORT SCOPE AND BOUNDARY

3.5 Process for defining report content, including:

- Determining materiality;
- Prioritizing topics within the report; and
- Identifying stakeholders the organization expects to use the report.

Include an explanation of how the organization has applied the ‘Guidance on Defining Report Content’ and the associated Principles.

3.6 Boundary of the report (e.g., countries, divisions, subsidiaries, leased facilities, joint ventures, suppliers). See GRI Boundary Protocol for further guidance.
3.7 State any specific limitations on the scope or boundary of the report.\(^{10}\)

If boundary and scope do not address the full range of material economic, environmental, and social impacts of the organization, state the strategy and projected timeline for providing complete coverage.

3.8 Basis for reporting on joint ventures, subsidiaries, leased facilities, outsourced operations, and other entities that can significantly affect comparability from period to period and/or between organizations.

3.9 Data measurement techniques and the bases of calculations, including assumptions and techniques underlying estimations applied to the compilation of the Indicators and other information in the report.

Explain any decisions not to apply, or to substantially diverge from, the GRI Indicator Protocols.

3.10 Explanation of the effect of any re-statements of information provided in earlier reports, and the reasons for such re-statement (e.g., mergers/acquisitions, change of base years/periods, nature of business, measurement methods).

3.11 Significant changes from previous reporting periods in the scope, boundary, or measurement methods applied in the report.

GRI CONTENT INDEX

3.12 Table identifying the location of the Standard Disclosures in the report.

Identify the page numbers or web links where the following can be found:

- Strategy and Analysis 1.1 – 1.2;
- Organizational Profile 2.1 – 2.10;
- Report Parameters 3.1 – 3.13;
- Governance, Commitments, and Engagement 4.1 – 4.17;
- Disclosure of Management Approach, per category;
- Core Performance Indicators;
- Any GRI Additional Indicators that were included; and
- Any GRI Sector Supplement Indicators included in the report.

ASSURANCE

3.13 Policy and current practice with regard to seeking external assurance for the report. If not included in the assurance report accompanying the sustainability report, explain the scope and basis of any external assurance provided. Also explain the relationship between the reporting organization and the assurance provider(s).

4. Governance, Commitments, and Engagement

GOVERNANCE

4.1 Governance structure of the organization, including committees under the highest governance body responsible for specific tasks, such as setting strategy or organizational oversight.

Describe the mandate and composition (including number of independent members and/or non-executive members) of such committees and indicate any direct responsibility for economic, social, and environmental performance.

4.2 Indicate whether the Chair of the highest governance body is also an executive officer (and, if so, their function within the organization’s management and the reasons for this arrangement).

Report the division of powers between the highest governance body and the management and/or executives.

4.3 For organizations that have a unitary board structure, state the number of members of the highest governance body that are independent and/or non-executive members.

State how the organization defines ‘independent’ and ‘non-executive’. This element applies only for organizations that have unitary board structures. See the glossary for a definition of ‘independent’.

4.4 Mechanisms for internal stakeholders (e.g., shareholders and employees) to provide recommendations or direction to the highest governance body.

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\(^{10}\) See completeness Principle for explanation of scope.
Include reference to processes regarding:

- The use of internal stakeholder consultation, shareholder resolutions or other mechanisms for enabling minority shareholders to express opinions to the highest governance body; and

- Informing and consulting employees about the working relationships with formal representation bodies such as organization level ‘work councils’, and representation of employees in the highest governance body.

Identify topics related to economic, environmental, and social performance raised through these mechanisms during the reporting period.

Also identify any topics raised relating to program effectiveness.

4.5 Linkage between compensation for members of the highest governance body, senior managers, and executives (including departure arrangements), and the organization’s performance (including social and environmental performance).

4.6 Processes in place for the highest governance body to ensure conflicts of interest are avoided.

4.7 Process for determining the qualifications and expertise of the members of the highest governance body for guiding the organization’s strategy on economic, environmental, and social topics.

Also address qualifications and expertise relating to guiding program effectiveness.

4.8 Internally developed statements of mission or values, codes of conduct, and principles relevant to economic, environmental, and social performance and the status of their implementation.

Explain the degree to which these:

- Are applied across the organization in different regions and department/units; and

- Relate to internationally agreed standards.

4.9 Procedures of the highest governance body for overseeing the organization’s identification and management of economic, environmental, and social performance, including relevant risks and opportunities, and adherence or compliance with nationally and internationally agreed standards, codes of conduct, and principles.

Include frequency with which the highest governance body assesses sustainability performance.

Also address procedures for overseeing program effectiveness.

4.10 Processes for evaluating the highest governance body’s own performance, particularly with respect to economic, environmental, and social performance.

Also report on processes for appointment, dismissal and lengths of tenure of members/officials in the highest governance body.

COMMITMENTS TO EXTERNAL INITIATIVES

4.11 Explanation of whether and how the precautionary approach or principle is addressed by the organization.

Article 15 of the Rio Principles introduced the precautionary approach. A response to 4.11 could address the organization’s approach to risk management in operational planning or the development and introduction of new products.

4.12 Externally developed economic, environmental, and social charters, principles, or other initiatives to which the organization subscribes or endorses.

Include date of adoption, countries/operations where applied, and the range of stakeholders involved in the development and governance of these initiatives (e.g., multi-stakeholder, etc.). Differentiate between non-binding, voluntary initiatives and those with which the organization has an obligation to comply.

4.13 Memberships in associations (such as industry associations, coalitions and alliances memberships, ) and/or national/international advocacy organizations in which the organization:
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- Has positions in governance bodies;
- Participates in projects or committees;
- Provides substantive funding beyond routine membership dues; or
- Views membership as strategic.

This refers primarily to memberships maintained at the organizational level.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The following Disclosure Items refer to general stakeholder engagement conducted by the organization over the course of the reporting period. These Disclosures are not limited to stakeholder engagement implemented for the purposes of preparing a sustainability report.

4.14 List of stakeholder groups engaged by the organization.

Examples of stakeholder groups are:

- Individuals or groups of individuals (including but not limited to ‘affected stakeholders’);
- Governments;
- Funders;
- Members;
- Volunteers;
- Private sector;
- Academic institutions;
- Peer organizations;
- Networks;
- Coalitions and alliances;
- Communities;
- Civil society;
- Customers;
- Shareholders and providers of capital;
- Suppliers; and
- Employees, other workers, and their trade unions.

4.15 Basis for identification and selection of stakeholders with whom to engage.

This includes the organization’s process for defining its stakeholder groups, and for determining the groups with which to engage and not to engage.

4.16 Approaches to stakeholder engagement, including frequency of engagement by type and by stakeholder group.

This could include surveys, focus groups, community panels, corporate advisory panels, written communication, management/union structures, and other vehicles. The organization should indicate whether any of the engagement was undertaken specifically as part of the report preparation process.

4.17 Key topics and concerns that have been raised through stakeholder engagement, and how the organization has responded to those key topics and concerns, including through its reporting.

5. Management Approach and Performance Indicators

The section on sustainability Performance Indicators is organized by economic, environmental, and social categories. Social Indicators are further categorized by Labor, Human Rights, Society, and Product Responsibility. Each category includes a Disclosure on Management Approach (‘Management Approach’) and a corresponding set of Core and Additional Performance Indicators.

Core Indicators have been developed through GRI’s multi-stakeholder processes, which are intended to identify generally applicable Indicators and are assumed to be material for most organizations. An organization should report on Core Indicators unless they are deemed not material on the basis of the GRI Reporting Principles. Additional Indicators represent emerging practice or address topics that may be material for some organizations, but are not material for others. Where final versions of Sector Supplements exist, the Indicators should be treated as Core Indicators. See Guidance on Defining Report Content for further details.
The Disclosure(s) on Management Approach should provide a brief overview of the organization’s management approach to the Aspects defined under each Indicator Category in order to set the context for performance information. The organization can structure its Disclosure(s) on Management Approach to cover the full range of Aspects under a given Category or group its responses on the Aspects differently. However, the Disclosure should address all of the Aspects associated with each category regardless of the format or grouping.

Within the overall structure of the Standard Disclosures, Strategy and Profile items 1.1 and 1.2 in ‘Strategy and Analysis’ are intended to provide a concise overview of the risks and opportunities facing the organization as a whole. The Disclosure(s) on Management Approach is intended to address the next level of detail of the organization’s approach to managing the sustainability topics associated with risks and opportunities.

In reporting on the Performance Indicators, the following guidance on data compilation applies:

- **Reporting on Trends:** Information should be presented for the current reporting period (e.g., one year) and at least two previous periods, as well as future targets, where they have been established, for the short- and medium-term.

- **Use of Protocols:** Organizations should use the Protocols that accompany the Indicators when reporting on the Indicators. These give basic guidance on interpreting and compiling information.

- **Presentation of Data:** In some cases, ratios or normalized data are useful and appropriate formats for data presentation. If ratios or normalized data are used, absolute data should also be provided.

- **Data aggregation:** Reporting organizations should determine the appropriate level of aggregation of information. See additional guidance in the General Reporting Notes section of the Guidelines.

- **Metrics:** Reported data should be presented using generally accepted international metrics (e.g., kilograms, tonnes, litres) and calculated using standard conversion factors. Where specific international conventions exist (e.g., GHG equivalents), these are typically specified in the Indicator Protocols.
Program Effectiveness

Disclosure on Management Approach
Provide a concise disclosure on the Management Approach items outlined below with reference to the following Aspects of Program Effectiveness:

- Affected Stakeholder Involvement;
- Feedback, Complaints, and Action;
- Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning;
- Gender and Diversity;
- Public Awareness and Advocacy; and
- Coordination.

Goals and Performance
Organization-wide goals regarding performance relevant to the Aspects of Program Effectiveness.
Use organization-specific Indicators (as needed) in addition to the GRI Performance Indicators to demonstrate the results of performance against goals.

Policy
Brief, organization-wide policy (or policies) that defines the organization’s overall commitment relating to the Aspects of Program Effectiveness listed above, or state where this can be found in the public domain (e.g., web link).

Organizational Responsibility
The most senior position with operational responsibility for Program Effectiveness Aspects or explain how operational responsibility is divided at the senior level for these Aspects. This differs from Disclosure 4.1, which focuses on structures at the governance level.

Training and Awareness
Procedures related to training and raising awareness in relation to the Program Effectiveness Aspects.

Monitoring and Follow-Up
Procedures related to monitoring and corrective and preventive actions, including those related to the supply chain.

The following may be included to clarify how the organization is monitoring and follows-up on Program Effectiveness Management Approach in place:

- List of certifications for program effectiveness-related performance or certification systems, or other approaches to auditing/verification for the reporting organization or its supply chain.

Additional Contextual Information
Additional relevant information required to understand organizational performance, such as:

- Key successes and shortcomings;
- Major organizational risks and opportunities;
- Major changes in the reporting period to systems or structures to improve performance; and
- Key strategies for implementing policies or achieving performance.

Program Effectiveness Performance Indicators

ASPECT: AFFECTED STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

NG01 Processes for involvement of affected stakeholder groups in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs.

ASPECT: FEEDBACK, COMPLAINTS AND ACTION

NG02 Mechanisms for feedback and complaints in relation to programs and policies and for determining actions to take in response to breaches of policies.

ASPECT: MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

NG03 System for program monitoring, evaluation and learning, (including measuring program effectiveness and impact), resulting changes to programs, and how they are communicated.

ASPECT: GENDER AND DIVERSITY

NG04 Measures to integrate gender and diversity into program design, implementation, and the monitoring, evaluation, and learning cycle.

ASPECT: PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY

NG05 Processes to formulate, communicate, implement, and change advocacy positions and public awareness campaigns.

ASPECT: COORDINATION

NG06 Processes to take into account and coordinate with the activities of other actors.
**Economic**

**NGO Sector-Specific Commentary:**

Even though NGOs have an orientation that is ‘not-for-profit’, the GRI Sustainability Reporting Guidelines’ economic dimensions are relevant to large and small, international and national NGOs. Under Economic Performance, NGOs are invited to consider organizational viability in terms of income and expenses, reserves, and provision for contingencies, paying particular attention to those aspects that have implications for NGO independence, alignment with public benefit goals, and best and most transparent use of the resources available. Accordingly, the Supplement suggests additional indicators on Resource Allocation and Ethical Fundraising.

In relation to Market Presence, NGOs are invited to assess the level of integration with and direct contribution to the local economy (investment of funds, construction of infrastructure, impact on local markets via local purchases, recruitment of personnel, etc.). Secondary and tertiary benefits (for example, estimations of economic benefits derived from investments in health, education, conflict prevention, improved food production, etc.) may be included under Indirect Economic Impacts if they have been estimated.

Where ‘economic development’, social infrastructure or poverty reduction activities such as microfinance or micro-enterprise development are a primary focus of NGO activity, it is suggested that summary information only be provided here, cross-referenced to more detailed information provided under the section on Program Effectiveness.

The economic dimension of sustainability concerns the organization’s impacts on the economic conditions of its stakeholders and on economic systems at local, national, and global levels. The Economic Indicators illustrate:

- Flow of capital among different stakeholders; and
- Main economic impacts of the organization throughout society.

Financial performance is fundamental to understanding an organization and its own sustainability. However, this information is normally already reported in financial accounts. What is often reported less, and is frequently desired by users of sustainability reports, is the organization’s contribution to the sustainability of a larger economic system.

**Disclosure on Management Approach**

Provide a concise disclosure on the Management Approach items outlined below with reference to the following Economic Aspects:

- Economic Performance;
- Market Presence, including Impact on Local Economies;
- Indirect Economic Impacts;
- Resource Allocation;
- Socially-Responsible Investment; and
- Ethical Fundraising.

**GOALS AND PERFORMANCE**

Organization-wide goals regarding performance relevant to the Economic Aspects.

Use organization-specific Indicators (as needed) in addition to the GRI Performance Indicators to demonstrate the results of performance against goals.

**POLICY**

Brief, organization-wide policy (or policies) that defines the organization’s overall commitment relating to the Economic Aspects listed above, or state where this can be found in the public domain (e.g., web link).

**MONITORING AND FOLLOW-UP**

Procedures related to monitoring of compliance with policy on acceptance of donations, including gifts in kind.

Procedures related to compliance by third parties and/or agents with policies.

**ADDITIONAL CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION**

Additional relevant information required to understand organizational performance, such as:

- Key successes and shortcomings;
- Major organizational risks and opportunities;
- Major changes in the reporting period to systems or structures to improve performance; and
- Key strategies for implementing policies or achieving performance.
Economic Performance Indicators

**NGO Sector-Specific Economic Performance Indicators**

**ASPECT: RESOURCE ALLOCATION**

- **EC7**: Resource allocation.

**ASPECT: ETHICAL FUNDRAISING**

- **EC8**: Sources of funding by category and five largest donors and monetary value of their contribution.

**ASPECT: ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE**

- **EC1**: Direct economic value generated and distributed, including revenues, operating costs, employee compensation, donations and other community investments, retained earnings, and payments to capital providers and governments.

**NGO Sector-Specific Commentary on EC1 Indicator Protocol:**

Commentaries added to make the indicator specific to the NGO sector.

- **EC2**: Financial implications and other risks and opportunities for the organization’s activities due to climate change.

- **EC3**: Coverage of the organization’s defined benefit plan obligations.

- **EC4**: Significant financial assistance received from government.

**ASPECT: MARKET PRESENCE, INCLUDING IMPACT ON LOCAL ECONOMIES**

- **EC5**: Range of ratios of standard entry level wage compared to local minimum wage at significant locations of operation.

- **EC6**: Policy, practices, and proportion of spending on locally-based suppliers at significant locations of operation.

- **EC7**: Procedures for local hiring and proportion of senior management and workforce hired from the local community at locations of significant operation.

**ASPECT: INDIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACTS**

- **EC8**: Development and impact of infrastructure investments and services provided primarily for public benefit through commercial, in-kind, or pro bono engagement.

- **EC9**: Understanding and describing significant indirect economic impacts, including the extent of impacts.
Environmental

The environmental dimension of sustainability concerns an organization's impacts on living and non-living natural systems, including ecosystems, land, air, and water. Environmental Indicators cover performance related to inputs (e.g., material, energy, water) and outputs (e.g., emissions, effluents, waste). In addition, they cover performance related to biodiversity, environmental compliance, and other relevant information such as environmental expenditure and the impacts of products and services.

NGO Sector-Specific Commentary:

Where environmental protection is a primary focus of the NGO’s program activity, it is suggested that summary information only be provided here, cross-referenced to more detailed information provided under the section on Program Effectiveness.

Disclosure on Management Approach

Provide a concise disclosure on the Management Approach items outlined below with reference to the following Environmental Aspects:

- Materials;
- Energy;
- Water;
- Biodiversity;
- Emissions, Effluents, and Waste;
- Products and Services;
- Compliance;
- Transport; and
- Overall

GOALS AND PERFORMANCE

Organization-wide goals regarding performance relevant to the Environment Aspects.

Use organization-specific Indicators (as needed) in addition to the GRI Performance Indicators to demonstrate the results of performance against goals.

POLICY

Brief, organization-wide policy (or policies) that defines the organization's overall commitment related to the Environmental Aspects listed above or state where this can be found in the public domain (e.g., web link).

ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The most senior position with operational responsibility for Environmental Aspects or explain how operational responsibility is divided at the senior level for these Aspects. This differs from Disclosure 4.1, which focuses on structures at the governance level.

TRAINING AND AWARENESS

Procedures related to training and raising awareness in relation to the Environmental Aspects.

MONITORING AND FOLLOW-UP

Procedures related to monitoring and corrective and preventive actions, including those related to the supply chain.

List of certifications for environment-related performance or certification systems, or other approaches to auditing/verification for the reporting organization or its supply chain.

ADDITIONAL CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Additional relevant information required to understand organizational performance, such as:

- Key successes and shortcomings;
- Major organizational environmental risks and opportunities related to issues;
- Major changes in the reporting period to systems or structures to improve performance; and
- Key strategies and procedures for implementing policies or achieving goals.

Environmental Performance Indicators

**ASPECT: MATERIALS**

- **EN1** Materials used by weight or volume.
- **EN2** Percentage of materials used that are recycled input materials.

**ASPECT: ENERGY**

- **EN3** Direct energy consumption by primary energy source.
EN4 Indirect energy consumption by primary source.

EN5 Energy saved due to conservation and efficiency improvements.

EN6 Initiatives to provide energy-efficient or renewable energy based products and services, and reductions in energy requirements as a result of these initiatives.

EN7 Initiatives to reduce indirect energy consumption and reductions achieved.

EN8 Total water withdrawal by source.

EN9 Water sources significantly affected by withdrawal of water.

EN10 Percentage and total volume of water recycled and reused.

EN11 Location and size of land owned, leased, managed in, or adjacent to, protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas.

EN12 Description of significant impacts of activities, products, and services on biodiversity in protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas.

EN13 Habitats protected or restored.

EN14 Strategies, current actions, and future plans for managing impacts on biodiversity.

EN15 Number of IUCN Red List species and national conservation list species with habitats in areas affected by operations, by level of extinction risk.

EN16 Total direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions by weight.

EN17 Other relevant indirect greenhouse gas emissions by weight.

EN18 Initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reductions achieved.

EN19 Emissions of ozone-depleting substances by weight.

EN20 NO, SO, and other significant air emissions by type and weight.

EN21 Total water discharge by quality and destination.

EN22 Total weight of waste by type and disposal method.

EN23 Total number and volume of significant spills.

EN24 Weight of transported, imported, exported, or treated waste deemed hazardous under the terms of the Basel Convention Annex I, II, III, and VIII, and percentage of transported waste shipped internationally.

EN25 Identity, size, protected status, and biodiversity value of water bodies and related habitats significantly affected by the reporting organization’s discharges of water and runoff.

EN26 Initiatives to mitigate environmental impacts of activities, products and services, and extent of impact mitigation.

EN27 Percentage of products sold and their packaging materials that are reclaimed by category.

EN28 Monetary value of significant fines and total number of non-monetary sanctions for non-compliance with environmental laws and regulations.
Significant environmental impacts of transporting products and other goods and materials used for the organization's operations, and transporting members of the workforce.

Total environmental protection expenditures and investments by type.

Social Performance Indicators

The social dimension of sustainability concerns the impacts an organization has on the social systems within which it operates.

The GRI Social Performance Indicators identify key Performance Aspects surrounding labor practices, human rights, society, and product responsibility.
Labor Practices and Decent Work

The specific Aspects under the category of Labor Practices are based on internationally recognized universal standards, including:

- United Nations Convention: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work of 1998 (in particular the eight core conventions of the ILO); and
- The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

The Labor Practices Indicators also draw upon the two instruments directly addressing the social responsibilities of business enterprises: the ILO Tripartite Declaration Concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

Disclosure on Management Approach

Provide a concise disclosure on the following Management Approach items with reference to the Labor Aspects listed below. The ILO Tripartite Declaration Concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, should be the primary reference points.

NGO Sector-Specific Commentary:

The prevalence of volunteers in the NGO sector makes them a key component of the sector’s human capital. The scope of their service ranges from occasional mobilization to full-time direct service. Because of the integral role volunteers play in the NGO workforce, their interests should be taken into account both in the DMA and in relevant indicators.

- Employment;
- Labor/Management Relations;
- Occupational Health and Safety;
- Training and Education; and
- Diversity and Equal Opportunity.

GOALS AND PERFORMANCE

Organization-wide goals regarding performance relevant to the Labor Aspects, indicating their linkage to the internationally recognized universal standards.

Use organization-specific Indicators (as needed) in addition to the GRI Performance Indicators to demonstrate the results of performance against goals.

POLICY

Brief, organization-wide policy (or policies) that defines the organization’s overall commitment related to the Labor Aspects, or state where this can be found in the public domain (e.g., web link). Also reference their linkage to the international standards indicated above.

ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The most senior position with operational responsibility for Labor Aspects or explain how operational responsibility is divided at the senior level for these Aspects. This differs from Disclosure 4.1, which focuses on structures at the governance level.

TRAINING AND AWARENESS

Procedures related to training and raising awareness in relation to the Labor Aspects.

MONITORING AND FOLLOW-UP

Procedures related to monitoring and corrective and preventive actions, including those related to the supply chain.

List of certifications for labor-related performance or certification systems, or other approaches to auditing/verifying the reporting organization or its supply chain.

ADDITIONAL CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Additional relevant information required to understand organizational performance, such as:

- Key successes and shortcomings;
- Major organizational risks and opportunities;
- Major changes in the reporting period to systems or structures to improve performance; and
- Key strategies and procedures for implementing policies or achieving goals.
Labor Practices and Decent Work Performance Indicators

**ASPECT: EMPLOYMENT**

**LA1** Total workforce, including volunteers, by employment type, employment contract, and region.

**NGO Sector-Specific Commentary on LA1 Indicator Protocol:**
- Commentary added to include volunteers.
- Commentary added to identify the different categories of volunteers by frequency and function.
- Commentary added to invite reporting on number of volunteers by type.
- Reference added.

**LA2** Total number and rate of employee turnover by age group, gender, and region.

**LA3** Benefits provided to full-time employees that are not provided to temporary or part-time employees, by major operations.

**ASPECT: LABOR/MANAGEMENT RELATIONS**

**NGO9** Mechanisms for workforce feedback and complaints, and their resolution.

**LA4** Percentage of employees covered by collective bargaining agreements.

**LA5** Minimum notice period(s) regarding operational changes, including whether it is specified in collective agreements.

**ASPECT: OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**LA6** Percentage of total workforce represented in formal joint management–worker health and safety committees that help monitor and advise on occupational health and safety programs.

**LA7** Rates of injury, occupational diseases, lost days, and absenteeism, and number of work-related fatalities by region.

**NGO Sector-Specific Commentary on LA7 Indicator Protocol:**
- Commentary added to describe the importance of reporting on injury rates of volunteers.
- Commentary added to include volunteers.

**ASPECT: TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

**LA8** Education, training, counseling, prevention, and risk-control programs in place to assist workforce members, their families, or community members regarding serious diseases.

**NGO Sector-Specific Commentary on LA8 Indicator Protocol:**
- Commentary added to include volunteers.

**LA9** Health and safety topics covered in formal agreements with trade unions.

**ASPECT: DIVERSITY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

**LA10** Average hours of training per year per employee by employee category.

**NGO Sector-Specific Commentary on LA10 Indicator Protocol:**
- Commentary added to include volunteers.

**LA11** Programs for skills management and lifelong learning that support the continued employability of employees and assist them in managing career endings.

**NGO Sector-Specific Commentary on LA11 Indicator Protocol:**
- Commentary added to include volunteers.

**LA12** Percentage of employees receiving regular performance and career development reviews.

**LA13** Composition of governance bodies and breakdown of employees per category according to gender, age group, minority group membership, and other indicators of diversity.

**LA14** Ratio of basic salary of men to women by employee category.
Human Rights

Human Rights Performance Indicators require organizations to report on the extent to which human rights are considered in investment and supplier/contractor selection practices. Additionally, the Indicators cover employee and security forces training on human rights as well as non-discrimination, freedom of association, child labor, indigenous rights, and forced and compulsory labor.

Generally recognized human rights are defined by the following Conventions and Declarations:

- United Nations Convention: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work of 1998 (in particular the eight core conventions of the ILO); and
- The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

Disclosure on Management Approach

Provide a concise disclosure on the following Management Approach items with reference to the Human Rights Aspects listed below. The ILO Tripartite Declaration Concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (in particular the eight core conventions of the ILO which consist of Conventions 100, 111, 87, 98, 138, 182, 20 and 105), and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises should be the primary reference points.

- Investment and Procurement Practices;
- Non-discrimination;
- Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining;
- Abolition of Child Labor;
- Prevention of Forced and Compulsory Labor;
- Complaints and Grievance Practices;
- Security Practices; and
- Indigenous Rights.

GOALS AND PERFORMANCE

Organization-wide goals regarding performance relevant to the Human Rights Aspects, indicating their linkage to the international declarations and standards listed above.

Use organization-specific Indicators (as needed) in addition to the GRI Performance Indicators to demonstrate the results of performance against goals.

POLICY

Brief, organization-wide policy (or policies) that defines the organization’s overall commitment to the Human Rights Aspects (including policies which may be reasonably considered likely to affect the decision of employees to join a trade union or bargain collectively), or state where this can be found in the public domain (e.g., web link). Also reference their linkage to the inter-national declarations and standards indicated above.

ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The most senior position with operational responsibility for Human Rights Aspects or explain how operational responsibility is divided at the senior level for these Aspects. This differs from Disclosure 4.1, which focuses on structures at the governance level.

TRAINING AND AWARENESS

Procedures related to training and raising awareness in relation to the Human Rights Aspects.

MONITORING AND FOLLOW-UP

Procedures related to monitoring and corrective and preventive actions, including those related to the supply chain.

List of certifications for human rights-related performance, or certification systems, or other approaches to auditing/verifying the reporting organization or its supply chain.

ADDITIONAL CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Additional relevant information required to understand organizational performance, such as:

- Key successes and shortcomings;
- Major organizational risks and opportunities;
- Major changes in the reporting period to systems or structures to improve performance; and
- Key strategies and procedures for implementing policies or achieving goals.

11 Conventions 100 and 111 pertain to non-discrimination; Conventions 87 and 98 pertain to freedom of association and collective bargaining; Conventions 138 and 182 pertain to the elimination of child labor; and Conventions 29 and 105 pertain to the prevention of forced and compulsory labor.
Human Rights Performance Indicators

**ASPECT: INVESTMENT AND PROCUREMENT PRACTICES**

**HR1** Percentage and total number of significant investment agreements that include human rights clauses or that have undergone human rights screening.

**HR2** Percentage of significant suppliers and contractors that have undergone screening on human rights and actions taken.

**HR3** Total hours of employee training on policies and procedures concerning aspects of human rights that are relevant to operations, including the percentage of employees trained.

**ASPECT: NON-DISCRIMINATION**

**HR4** Total number of incidents of discrimination and actions taken.

**ASPECT: FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

**HR5** Operations identified in which the right to exercise freedom of association and collective bargaining may be at significant risk, and actions taken to support these rights.

**ASPECT: CHILD LABOR**

**HR6** Operations identified as having significant risk for incidents of child labor, and measures taken to contribute to the elimination of child labor.

**ASPECT: FORCED AND COMPULSORY LABOR**

**HR7** Operations identified as having significant risk for incidents of forced or compulsory labor, and measures to contribute to the elimination of forced or compulsory labor.

**ASPECT: SECURITY PRACTICES**

**HR8** Percentage of security personnel trained in the organization’s policies or procedures concerning aspects of human rights that are relevant to operations.

**ASPECT: INDIGENOUS RIGHTS**

**HR9** Total number of incidents of violations involving rights of indigenous people and actions taken.

Society

Society Performance Indicators focus attention on the impacts organizations have on the communities in which they operate, and disclosing how the risks that may arise from interactions with other social institutions are managed and mediated. In particular, information is sought on the risks associated with bribery and corruption, undue influence in public policy-making, and monopoly practices.

**Disclosure on Management Approach**

Provide a concise disclosure on the following Management Approach items with reference to the Society Aspects:

- Community;
- Corruption;
- Public Policy;
- Anti-Competitive Behavior; and
- Compliance.

**GOALS AND PERFORMANCE**

Organization-wide goals regarding performance relevant to the Aspects indicated above.

Use organization-specific Indicators as needed in addition to the GRI Performance Indicators to demonstrate the results of performance against goals.

**POLICY**

Brief, organization-wide policy (or policies) that define the organization’s overall commitment relating to the Society Aspects or state where this can be found in the public domain (e.g., web link).

**ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

The most senior position with operational responsibility for Society Aspects or explain how operational responsibility is divided at the senior level for these Aspects. This differs from Disclosure 4.1, which focuses on structures at the governance level.

**TRAINING AND AWARENESS**

Procedures related to training and raising awareness in relation to the Society Aspects.
MONITORING AND FOLLOW-UP

Procedures related to monitoring and corrective and preventive actions, including those related to the supply chain.

List of certifications for performance or certification systems, or other approaches to auditing/verifying the reporting organization or its supply chain.

ADDITIONAL CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Additional relevant information required to understand organizational performance, such as:

- Key successes and shortcomings;
- Major organizational risks and opportunities;
- Major changes in the reporting period to systems or structures to improve performance; and
- Key strategies and procedures for implementing policies or achieving goals.

Society Performance Indicators

ASPECT: COMMUNITY

S01 Nature, scope, and effectiveness of any programs and practices that assess and manage the impacts of operations on communities, including entering, operating, and exiting.

ASPECT: CORRUPTION

S02 Percentage and total number of programs/business units analyzed for risks related to corruption.

S03 Percentage of employees trained in organization's anti-corruption policies and procedures.

S04 Actions taken in response to incidents of corruption.

NGO Sector-Specific Commentary on S04 Indicator Protocol:
Commentary added to describe the importance of reporting on instances of corruption. Commentary added to include volunteers and members of governance bodies.

ASPECT: PUBLIC POLICY

S05 Public policy positions and participation in public policy development and lobbying.

S06 Total value of financial and in-kind contributions to political parties, politicians, and related institutions by country.

ASPECT: ANTI-COMPETITIVE BEHAVIOR

S07 Total number of legal actions for anti-competitive behavior, anti-trust, and monopoly practices and their outcomes.

ASPECT: COMPLIANCE

S08 Monetary value of significant fines and total number of non-monetary sanctions for non-compliance with laws and regulations.
Product Responsibility

Product Responsibility Performance Indicators address the aspects of a reporting organization’s products and services that directly affect customers, namely, health and safety, information and labeling, marketing, and privacy.

These aspects are chiefly covered through disclosure on internal procedures and the extent to which these procedures are not complied with.

Disclosure on Management Approach

Provide a concise disclosure on the following Management Approach items with reference to the Product Responsibility Aspects:

- Customer Health and Safety;
- Product and Service Labeling;
- Marketing Communications;

NGO Sector-Specific Commentary:

Include specific reference to ethical fundraising, including with reference to respect for rights of affected stakeholders and donors.

- Customer Privacy; and

NGO Sector-Specific Commentary:

Refer to data protection.

- Compliance.

GOALS AND PERFORMANCE

Organization-wide goals regarding performance relevant to the Product Responsibility Aspects.

Use organization-specific Indicators (as needed) in addition to the GRI Performance Indicators to demonstrate the results of performance against goals.

POLICY

Brief, organization-wide policy (or policies) that defines the organization’s overall commitment to the Product Responsibility Aspects, or state where this can be found in the public domain (e.g., web link).

ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The most senior position with operational responsibility for Product Responsibility Aspects, or explain how operational responsibility is divided at the senior level for Product Responsibility Aspects. This differs from Disclosure 4.1, which focuses on structures at the governance level.

TRAINING AND AWARENESS

Procedures related to training and raising awareness in relation to the Product Responsibility Aspects.

MONITORING AND FOLLOW-UP

Procedures related to monitoring and corrective and preventive actions, including those related to the supply chain.

List of certifications for product responsibility-related performance or certification systems, or other approaches to auditing/verifying the reporting organization or its supply chain.

ADDITIONAL CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Additional relevant information required to understand organizational performance, such as:

- Key successes and shortcomings;
- Major organizational risks and opportunities;
- Major changes in the reporting period to systems or structures to improve performance; and
- Key strategies and procedures for implementing policies or achieving goals.
**Product Responsibility Performance Indicators**

**ASPECT: CUSTOMER HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- **PR1** Life cycle stages in which health and safety impacts of products and services are assessed for improvement, and percentage of significant products and services categories subject to such procedures.

- **PR2** Total number of incidents of non-compliance with regulations and voluntary codes concerning health and safety impacts of products and services during their life cycle, by type of outcomes.

**ASPECT: PRODUCT AND SERVICE LABELING**

- **PR3** Type of product and service information required by procedures, and percentage of significant products and services subject to such information requirements.

- **PR4** Total number of incidents of non-compliance with regulations and voluntary codes concerning product and service information and labeling, by type of outcomes.

- **PR5** Practices related to customer satisfaction, including results of surveys measuring customer satisfaction.

**ASPECT: MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS**

- **PR6** Programs for adherence to laws, standards, and voluntary codes related to fundraising and marketing communications, including advertising, promotion, and sponsorship.

**NGO Sector-Specific Commentary on PR6 Indicator Protocol:**

Commentary added to invite reporting on complaints of breaches of standard for fundraising and marketing communications.

- **PR7** Total number of incidents of non-compliance with regulations and voluntary codes concerning marketing communications, including advertising, promotion, and sponsorship by type of outcomes.

**ASPECT: CUSTOMER PRIVACY**

- **PR8** Total number of substantiated complaints regarding breaches of customer privacy and losses of customer data.

**ASPECT: COMPLIANCE**

- **PR9** Monetary value of significant fines for non-compliance with laws and regulations concerning the provision and use of products and services.
**General Reporting Notes**

**Data Gathering**

**FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT**

The process of defining report content will result in a set of topics and indicators on which the organization should report. However, practical challenges such as the availability of data, the cost of gathering it, the confidentiality of information, privacy or other legal concerns, the reliability of available information, and other factors, may result in a legitimate decision not to disclose certain information. Where material information is omitted, the report should clearly indicate this and the reasons why.

**DATA AGGREGATION AND DISAGGREGATION**

Reporting organizations will need to determine the level of aggregation at which to present information. This requires balancing the effort required against the added meaningfulness of information reported on a disaggregated basis (e.g., country or site). Aggregation of information can result in the loss of a significant amount of meaning, and can also fail to highlight particularly strong or poor performance in specific areas. On the other hand, unnecessary disaggregation of data can affect the ease of understanding the information. Reporting organizations should disaggregate information to an appropriate level using the principles and the guidance in the reporting indicators. Disaggregation may vary by indicator, but will generally provide more insight than a single, aggregated figure.

**Report Form and Frequency**

**DEFINITION OF A SUSTAINABILITY REPORT**

A sustainability report refers to a single, consolidated disclosure that provides a reasonable and balanced presentation of performance over a fixed time period. Stakeholders should be able to directly access all of the report information from a single location, such as a GRI content index. Other publications should not be referenced as the information source for a GRI Standard Disclosure Item (ex., a Performance Indicator) unless the means for a stakeholder to directly access the information is provided (e.g., a link to a specific web page or the page number of the corresponding publication). There is no minimum length for a report using the GRI Framework as long as the organization has properly applied the Guidelines and Framework documents it has chosen to use.

**MEDIUM OF REPORTING**

Electronic (e.g., CD-ROM) or web-based reporting and paper reports are appropriate media for reporting. Organizations may choose to use a combination of web and paper-based reports or use only one medium. For example, an organization may choose to provide a detailed report on their website and provide an executive summary including their strategy and analysis and performance information in paper form. The choice will likely depend on the organization’s decisions on its reporting period, its plans for updating content, the likely users of the report, and other practical factors such as its distribution strategy. At least one medium (web or paper) should provide users with access to the complete set of information for the reporting period.

**FREQUENCY OF REPORTING**

Organizations should define a consistent and periodic cycle for issuing a report. For many organizations, this will be an annual cycle, although some organizations choose to report biannually. An organization may choose to update information on a regular basis between the issuing of consolidated accounts of performance. This has advantages in terms of providing stakeholders with more immediate access to information, but has disadvantages in terms of comparability of information. However, organizations should still maintain a predictable cycle in which all of the information that is reported covers a specific time period.

Reporting on economic, environmental, and social performance could coincide or be integrated with other organizational reporting, such as annual financial statements. Coordinated timing will reinforce the linkages between financial performance and economic, environmental, and social performance.
**UPDATING REPORT CONTENT**

When preparing a new report, an organization may identify areas of information that have not changed since the prior report (e.g., a policy that has not been amended). The organization may choose to only update the topics and Indicators that have changed and to re-publish the Disclosures that have not changed. For example, an organization may choose to reproduce the information on policies that have not changed and only update its Performance Indicators. The flexibility to take such an approach will depend in large part on the organization’s choice of reporting medium. Topics such as strategy and analysis and Performance Indicators are likely to show changes each reporting period, while other topics such as organizational profile or governance may change at a slower pace. Regardless of the strategy used, the full set of applicable information for the reporting period should be accessible in a single location (either a paper or web-based document).

**Assurance**

**CHOICES ON ASSURANCE**

Organizations use a variety of approaches to enhance the credibility of their reports. Organizations may have systems of internal controls in place, including internal audit functions, as part of their processes for managing and reporting information. These internal systems are important to the overall integrity and credibility of a report. However, GRI recommends the use of external assurance for sustainability reports in addition to any internal resources.

A variety of approaches are currently used by report preparers to implement external assurance, including the use of professional assurance providers, stakeholder panels, and other external groups or individuals. However, regardless of the specific approach, it should be conducted by competent groups or individuals external to the organization. These engagements may employ groups or individuals that follow professional standards for assurance, or they may involve approaches that follow systematic, documented, and evidence-based processes but are not governed by a specific standard.

GRI uses the term ‘external assurance’ to refer to activities designed to result in published conclusions on the quality of the report and the information contained within it. This includes, but is not limited to, consideration of underlying processes for preparing this information. This is different from activities designed to assess or validate the quality or level of performance of an organization, such as issuing performance certifications or compliance assessments.

Overall, the key qualities for external assurance of reports using the GRI Reporting Framework are that it:

- Is conducted by groups or individuals external to the organization who are demonstrably competent in both the subject matter and assurance practices;
- Is implemented in a manner that is systematic, documented, evidence-based, and characterized by defined procedures;
- Assesses whether the report provides a reasonable and balanced presentation of performance, taking into consideration the veracity of data in a report as well as the overall selection of content;
- Utilizes groups or individuals to conduct the assurance who are not unduly limited by their relationship with the organization or its stakeholders to reach and publish an independent and impartial conclusion on the report;
- Assesses the extent to which the report preparer has applied the GRI Reporting Framework (including the Reporting Principles) in the course of reaching its conclusions; and
- Results in an opinion or set of conclusions that is publicly available in written form, and a statement from the assurance provider on their relationship to the report preparer.

As indicated in Profile Disclosure 3.13, organizations should disclose information on their approach to external assurance.
**Glossary of Terms**

**Additional Indicators**
Additional Indicators are those Indicators identified in the GRI Guidelines that represent emerging practice or address topics that may be material to some organizations but not generally for a majority.

**Boundary**
The boundary for a sustainability report refers to the range of entities whose performance is covered in the organization’s sustainability report.

**Content Index**
A GRI content index is a table or matrix that lists all of the Standard Disclosures, and where responses to the Disclosures can be found (page number or URL). Reporting organizations can also add reference to organization-specific (non-GRI Guidelines) Indicators. The Content Index provides users with a quick overview of what has been reported and increases ease of report use. A Content Index is especially important if some of the Disclosures appear in other reports, such as a financial report or previous sustainability reports.

**Core Indicator**
Core Indicators are those Indicators identified in the GRI Guidelines to be of interest to most stakeholders and assumed to be material unless deemed otherwise on the basis of the GRI Reporting Principles.

**Downstream**
The term ‘downstream entities’ is based on the concept of a production chain that extends from the extraction of raw materials to the use of a good or service by an end-user. ‘Downstream’ refers to those organizations that play a role in the distribution or use of goods and services provided by the reporting organization, or, more generally, play a role in a later step in the production chain than the organization itself.

**Global Reporting Initiative**
GRI’s vision is that reporting on economic, environmental, and social performance by all organizations is as routine and comparable as financial reporting. GRI accomplishes this vision by developing, continuously improving and building capacity around the use of the GRI’s Sustainability Reporting Framework. All Reporting Framework components are developed using a global, multi-stakeholder consensus seeking approach.

**GRI Reporting Framework**
The GRI Reporting Framework is intended to provide a generally accepted framework for reporting on an organization’s economic, environmental, and social performance. The Framework consists of the Sustainability Reporting Guidelines, the Indicator Protocols, Technical Protocols, and the Sector Supplements.

**Independent Board Member**
Definitions for ‘independent’ can vary between legal jurisdictions. Independent usually implies that the member has no financial interest in the organization or other potential benefits that could create a conflict of interest. Organizations using the Guidelines should state the definition used for ‘independent’.

**Indicator Categories**
Broad areas or groupings of sustainability topics. The categories included in the GRI Guidelines are: economic, environmental, and social. The social grouping is categorized in terms of Labor Practices, Human Rights, Society, and Product Responsibility. A given category may have several Indicator Aspects.

**Indicator Aspects**
The general types of information that are related to a specific Indicator category (e.g., energy use, child labor, customers).

**Performance Indicator**
Qualitative or quantitative information about results or outcomes associated with the organization that is comparable and demonstrates change over time.

**Profile Disclosures**
The numbered information requirements in Part 2 of the Guidelines that set the overall context for reporting and understanding organizational performance (e.g., 2.1, 3.13).

**Reporting Principle**
Concepts that describe the outcomes a report should achieve and that guide decisions made throughout the reporting process, such as which Indicators to respond to, and how to respond to them.

**Sector Supplement**
Sector Supplements complement the Guidelines with interpretations and guidance on how to apply the Guidelines in a given sector, and include sector-specific Performance Indicators. Applicable Sector Supplements should be used in addition to the Guidelines rather than in place of the Guidelines.
Stakeholder

Stakeholders are defined broadly as those groups or individuals: (a) that can reasonably be expected to be significantly affected by the organization’s activities, products, and/or services; or (b) whose actions can reasonably be expected to affect the ability of the organization to successfully implement its strategies and achieve its objectives.

NGO Sector-Specific Commentary:

The term ‘Affected Stakeholders’ is frequently used in the context of NGO work in preference to the term ‘beneficiaries’. It is used in the NGO Sector Supplement to designate those individuals, communities, or causes that may intentionally or unintentionally be impacted positively or negatively by the work of the organization, and to whom specific accountability duties arise.

Standard Disclosures

The Guidelines present topics and information for reporting that are material to most organizations and of interest to most stakeholders. These are captured in three types of Standard Disclosures:

• Strategy and Profile Disclosures set the overall context for reporting and for understanding organizational performance, such as its strategy, profile, governance, and management approach;

• Disclosures on Management Approach cover how an organization addresses a given set of topics in order to provide context for understanding performance in a specific area.

• Performance Indicators that elicit comparable information on the economic, environmental, and social performance of the organization

Sustainability Report

Sustainability reporting is the practice of measuring, disclosing, and being accountable for organizational performance while working towards the goal of sustainable development. A sustainability report provides a balanced and reasonable representation of the sustainability performance of the reporting organization, including both positive and negative contributions.

Indicator Protocol

An Indicator Protocol provides definitions, compilation guidance, and other information to assist report preparers, and to ensure consistency in the interpretation of the Performance Indicators. An Indicator Protocol exists for each of the Performance Indicators contained in the Guidelines.

Unitary Board

Refers to a board structure that has only one governing body responsible for the organization.

Upstream

The term ‘upstream entities’ is based on the concept of a production chain that extends from the extraction of raw materials to the use of a good or service by an end-user. ‘Upstream’ refers to those organizations that play a role in the supply chain of the reporting organization or, more generally, play a role in an earlier step in the production chain than the organization itself.

For definitions of words or concepts contained directly in the wording of the Indicators, see the Indicator Protocols.
Additional NGO References

This is a non exhaustive list of sources for NGOs reporting. These references do not have their origin in internationally-adopted documents, conventions or protocols as those citied as formal references in the main text; they may however be useful sources of guidance to reporters when compiling indicators.

Stakeholder Engagement:
- World Bank Civil Society Engagement Sourcebook.
- CSO Programme Effectiveness.

Public Awareness and advocacy:
- Article 19, 20, 21 UDHR, Aarhus Convention.
- Article 10 of Rio Declaration, ILO Constitution.
- Article 71 UN Charter.
- INGO Accountability Charter.

Evaluation / Effectiveness:
- Monitoring and Evaluation News: http://mande.co.uk/.
- Point K Learning Centre / Evaluation tools for social change: http://www.innonet.org/.

Self-regulation initiatives:
G3 Guidelines Acknowledgements: A Global Effort

The following organizations provided funds or in-kind contributions for the G3 development process

**G3 Consortium:**

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- bp
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**G3 ad hoc support:**

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**G3 printed by:**

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**G3 Guidelines and Protocols Content Development**

Volunteers from business, non-governmental organizations, labor, accountancy, investment, academia, and others came together and create all aspects of the G3 Guidelines and Protocols. The following multi-stakeholder technical working groups were convened between January and November 2005, and each delivered a different part of the content of the G3 Guidelines.

**Indicators Working Group (IWG) Members**

The Indicators Working Group was responsible for reviewing the indicators set as a whole; ensuring quality and consistency of the indicators’ design; and designing overall fit with the TAC guidance.

- Mr. Neil Anderson, Union Network International, UNI
- Mr. David Bent, Forum for the Future
- Mr. William R. Blackburn, William Blackburn Consulting
- Ms. Julie-Anne Braithwaite, Rio Tinto/ICMM
- Ms. Sarah Forrest, Goldman Sachs International
- Ms. Somporn Kamolsiripichaiporn, Chulalongkorn University
- Mr. Robert Langford, The Federation des Experts Comptables Europeens (FEE)
- Ms. Stephanie Maier, Ethical Investment Research Service (EIRIS)
- Ms. Asako Nagai, Sony Corporation
- Mr. Ron Nielsen, Alcan Inc.
- Mr. Michael Rae, World Wide Fund Australia
- Ms. Ulla Rehell, Kesko Corporation
- Mr. George Nagle, Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Ms. Filippa Bergin, Amnesty International
- Ms. Giuliana Ortega Bruno, Ethos Institute

The IWG worked with six issue-specific Advisory Groups that were responsible for reviewing indicators and creating technical protocols for indicators in their area of expertise.

**Society Advisory Group Members**

- Ms. Anne Gambling, Holcim
- Mr. Sachin Joshi, Center For Social Markets (CSM)
- Mr. Craig Metrick, Investor Responsibility Research Center (IRRC)
- Mr. Keith Miller, 3M
- Ms. Ruth Rosenbaum, Center for Reflection, Education and Action (CREA)
- Ms. Glaucia Terreo, Instituto Ethos
- Mr. Peter Wilkinson, Transparency International
Human Rights Advisory Group Members

- Ms. Marina d’Engelbronner, Humanist Committee on Human Rights (HOM)
- Ms. Bethany Heath, Chiquita Brands
- Mr. Jorge Daniel Taillant, The Center for Human Rights and Environment (CEDHA)
- Rev. Mr. David M. Schilling, Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility
- Ms. Susan Todd, Solstice Sustainability Works Inc.
- Mr. Hirose Chuichiro, Canon
- Mr. Steve Ouma, Kenyan Human Rights Commission
- Mr. Björn Edlund, ABB Ltd.
- Ms. Marleen van Ruijven, Amnesty International

Environment (Biodiversity and Water) Advisory Group

- Mr. Ian Blythe, Boots Group PLC
- Mr. Ian Dutton, The Nature Conservancy
- Ms. Annelisa Grigg, Fauna & Flora International
- Ms. Nancy Kamp-Roelands, Ernst & Young Netherlands/Royal NIVRA
- Ms. Erin Musk, City West Water
- Mr. Mike Rose, SASOL
- Mr. Fernando Toledo, Codelco

Environment (Pollution) Advisory Group Members

- Ms. Tanja D. Carroll, Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies (CERES)
- Mr. Yutaka Okayama, Toyota Motor Corporation
- Ms. Maria Fatima Reyes, Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA)
- Mr. Yogendra Kumar Saxena, Gujarat Ambuja Cements
- Mr. David Stangis, Intel Corporation
- Ms. Sonia Valdivia, The Catholic University of Peru
- Mr. Eric Shostal, Institutional Shareholder Services
- Ms. Lucian Turk, Dell, Inc.

Labor Advisory Group Members

- Ms. Michiko Arikawa, Matsushita Electric Industrial (Panasonic)
- Mr. Stephen Frost, Southeast Asia Research Centre
- Ms. Kyoko Sakuma, Sustainability Analysis & Consulting
- Mr. Sean Ansett, Gap Inc.
- Ms. Deborah Evans, Lloyd’s Register of Quality Assurance (LRQA)
- Mr. Pierre Mazeau, Electricité de France (EDF)
- Mr. Dan Viederman, Verité

Economic Advisory Group Members

- Ms. Christine Jasch, Institute for Environmental Management and Economics (IOEW)
- Mr. Martin Tanner, Novartis International AG
- Ms. Helen Campbell, former AccountAbility
- Mr. Eric Israel, KPMG LLP
- Ms. Martina Japy, BMJ CoreRatings
- Ms. Michelle Smith, Rohm and Haas
- Ms. Lisa Acree, Business for Social Responsibility
- Mr. Johan Verburg, NOVIB/Oxfam Netherlands

Reporting as a Process Working Group (RPWG) Members

The Reporting as a Process Working Group was tasked with updating and further developing the reporting principles, and other guidance on the process of applying the G3 Guidelines.

- Ms. Amy Anderson, Starbucks Coffee
- Mr. Pankaj Bhatia, World Resources Institute (WRI)
- Mr. Bill Boyle, BP
- Dr. Uwe Brekau, Bayer AG
- Ms. Debra Hall, Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies (CERES)
- Mr. Dunstan Hope, Business for Social Responsibility
- Dr. Aqueel Khan, Association for Stimulating Know How (ASK)
- Ms. Judy Kuszewski, SustainAbility Ltd.
• Mr Brian Kohler, Communications, Energy & Paperworkers Union of Canada
• Mr Ken Larson, Hewlett Packard
• Mr. Steve Lippman, Trillium Invest
• Mr Luis Perera, PriceWaterHouseCoopers
• Mr. Dante Pesce, Vincular, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaiso
• Ms Mizue Unno, So-Tech Consulting, Inc.
• Mr Cornis van der Lugt, UNEP Division of Technology, Industry, and Economics (DTIE)
• Mr. Robert Walker, The Ethical Funds Company
• Mr. Ian Whitehouse, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research
• Mr Alan Willis, Alan Willis & Associates
• Although not a member of the group, Jennifer Iansen-Rogers, KPMG, The Netherlands, provided ongoing advice on process matters.

Public comments
270 submissions were received in response to its call for comments on the draft G3 Guidelines between January and March 2006. These comments significantly shaped the final G3 Guidelines.

GRI Governance Bodies
For full information on governance bodies, including members and roles, see www.globalreporting.org.

Technical Advisory Committee: This group of 12 experts assists in maintaining the overall quality and coherence of the GRI Reporting Framework by providing high level technical advice and expertise. Their key function in the G3 process was to recommend direction on the overall architecture, resolve key issues that emerged specifically around Guidelines content; ensure they were created under sound due process; submit a concur/non-concur recommendation to the Board on whether to approve the G3 version for release. The members passed a majority concur vote.

Stakeholder Council: This group of 48 form the formal stakeholder policy forum within the GRI governance structure. The Council advises the Board on policy and strategy issues and helped set the overall path for the G3 development process. Some individual SC members participated in the G3 working groups directly. The Council passed a majority concur vote on the release of the G3 Guidelines.

Board of Directors: This group of 16 has the ultimate fiduciary, financial and legal responsibility for the GRI, including final decision making authority on GRI Guidelines revisions, organizational strategy, and work plans. After providing guidance and direction throughout the G3 process, receiving recommendations from the TAC and SC, the Board voted unanimously to approve the G3 Guidelines for release.

GRI Secretariat: Under the leadership of the Chief Executive, the Secretariat implements the Guidelines and technical work plan approved by the GRI Board of Directors. It also manages communications, outreach, stakeholder relations, and financial administration. The Secretariat supports the operations of the Board of Directors, Stakeholder Council and Technical Advisory Committee.

Consultants
The GRI secretariat enlisted the (paid) help of the following consultants during the G3 process:
• csrnetwork (Lead consultant – Mark Line)
• Just Solutions (Lead consultant – Vic Thorpe)
• onValues (Lead consultant – Ivo Knoepfel)
• Ove Arup (Lead consultant – Jean Rogers)
• Responsibility Matters (Lead consultant – Mark Brownlie)
• Sandra Pederson, Editor
• Source-Asia (Lead consultant – Paul Wenman)
• Triple Innova (Lead consultant – Michael Kundt)
• University of Amsterdam (Lead consultant – Jeffrey Harrod)

The GRI Secretariat enlisted the (paid) help of the following consultants during the NGO Sector Supplement development process:
• Just Solutions Network (Lead consultant during the first phase – Elaine Jones)
• INSPIRIT International Communications (Lead consultant for layout - Tuuli Sauren)
NGO Sector Supplement Content Development

Acknowledgements

NGO Sector Supplement Working Group Members

The NGO Sector Supplement Working Group was responsible for developing the set of new, sector-specific disclosures and performance indicators, as well as commentary on the G3 Guidelines content. The Working Group process ran from February 2008 through May 2010. The Working Group was formed by volunteers from NGOs and companies:

- Silvina Aimino, Center for Human Rights and Environment (CEDHA), Argentina
- Federica Farneti, University of Bologna, Italy
- John Garrison, The World Bank Group (WBG), USA
- Kate Gilmore, Amnesty International (AI), UK
- Beris Gwynne, World Vision International (WVI), Switzerland
- Michael Hammer, One World Trust (OWT), UK
- Lisa Jordan, Ford Foundation, USA
- Constance Kane, World Education, USA
- Poonam Mehta, Development Alternatives Group (DAG), India
- Lettemieke Mulder, Unilever, Netherlands
- Chol Obyuongo, Tearfund, Sudan
- Sarah Samson, Novartis, Switzerland
- Joss Saunders, Oxfam GB, UK
- Jackie Schoeman, Cotlands, South Africa
- Carol Tappenden, Greater Good South Africa, South Africa
- Jasper Teulings, Greenpeace International, Netherlands
- Elena Topoleva, Agency Social Information (ASI), Russian Federation
- Ambreen Waheed, Responsible Business Initiative (RBI), Pakistan
- Barbara Wallace, Interaction, USA
Legal Liability

This document, designed to promote sustainability reporting, has been developed through a unique multi-stakeholder consultative process involving representatives from reporting organizations and report information users from around the world. While the GRI Board of Directors encourage use of the GRI Sustainability Reporting Guidelines (GRI Guidelines) by all organizations, the preparation and publication of reports based fully or partially on the GRI Guidelines is the full responsibility of those producing them. Neither the GRI Board of Directors nor Stichting Global Reporting Initiative can assume responsibility for any consequences or damages resulting directly or indirectly, from the use of the GRI Guidelines in the preparation of reports or the use of reports based on the GRI Guidelines.

Request for Notification of Use

Organizations that have used the Guidelines and/or other elements of the GRI Reporting Framework as the basis for their report are requested to notify the Global Reporting Initiative upon its release. While notifying GRI, organizations can choose any or all of the following options:

- Simply notify the GRI of the report and provide hard and/or soft copy
- Register their report in GRI’s online database of reports
- Request GRI check their self-declared Application Level.

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GRI Application Levels
GRI Application Levels

Brief overview
To indicate that a report is GRI-based, report makers should declare the level to which they have applied the GRI Reporting Framework via the “Application Levels” system.

To meet the needs of beginners, advanced reporters, and those somewhere in between, there are three levels in the system. They are titled C, B, and A. The reporting criteria at each level reflect a measure of the extent of application or coverage of the GRI Reporting Framework. A “plus” (+) is available at each level (ex., C+, B+, A+) if external assurance was utilized for the report.

Value of the Levels
The Levels aim to provide:

• Report readers with a measure of the extent to which the GRI Guidelines and other Reporting Framework elements have been applied in the preparation of a report.

• Report makers with a vision or path for incrementally expanding application of the GRI Reporting Framework over time.

Declaring an Application Level clearly communicates which elements of the GRI Reporting Framework have been applied in the preparation of a report.

• Incentives for beginners: The Levels provide a starting point for first-time report makers, and also reinforce the importance and value of an incremental approach to reporting which expands over time.

• Recognizing advanced reporters: A growing number of organizations have developed sophisticated reporting systems based on the GRI Framework, that include assurance, and are looking to communicate this to readers in a quick and easy-to-understand way.

How the system works
A report maker self-declares a Level based on its own assessment of its report content against the criteria in the GRI Application Levels (see overleaf).

In addition to the self-declaration, reporting organizations can choose one or both of the following options:

• Have a third party offer an opinion on the self-declaration

• Request that the GRI check the self-declaration.
Application Level Criteria

Reports intended to qualify for level C, C+, B, B+, A or A+ must contain each of the criteria that are presented in the column for the relevant Level.

GRI recommends reporting organizations include the Application Level table in their report as it illustrates the value and requirements of the system to report readers.

### Declaring an Application Level

A GRI Application Level declaration should be included in the report. It needs to be indicated who has made this assessment.

Reporting organizations may exercise their option to seek opinions from a third party or request a GRI Application Level Check to confirm their self-declaration.

Both self-declarations and third party statements should be indicated in the report by including appropriate text. More information on ‘Options for Declaration’ can be found at www.globalreporting.org.

Having successfully completed a GRI Application Level Check, reporting organizations should include the customized GRI Application Level Check Statement in their report, which incorporates the special GRI-Checked icon.

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<tr>
<th>Report Application Level</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>C+</th>
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<td>Performance Indicators &amp; Sector Supplement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Report on all criteria listed for Level C plus:</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>3.9, 3.13</td>
<td>4.5 - 4.13, 4.16 - 4.17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management Approach Disclosures for each Indicator Category</td>
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<td>Repson on each core and Sector Supplement* indicator with due regard to the materiality Principle by either: a) reporting on the indicator or b) explaining the reason for its omission.</td>
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* Sector supplement in final version
** Performance Indicators may be selected from any finalized Sector Supplement, but 7 of the 10 must be from the original GRI Guidelines
*** Performance Indicators may be selected from any finalized Sector Supplement, but 14 of the 20 must be from the original GRI Guidelines

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Externally Assured</th>
<th>Profile Disclosures</th>
<th>Disclosures on Management Approach</th>
<th>Performance Indicators &amp; Sector Supplement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report on a minimum of any 10 Performance Indicators, including at least one from each of: social, economic, and environment.**</td>
<td>Report fully on a minimum of any 20 Performance Indicators, at least one from each of: economic, environment, human rights, labor, society, product responsibility.***</td>
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The GRI Application Level Check Statement serves as the formal confirmation of the Application Level Check. GRI recommends reporting organizations publish this Statement near the GRI Content Index.

GRI will only recognize reports on its website as GRI-based if they contain, at minimum, a GRI Content Index.

The GRI Content Index lists every Guidelines disclosure addressed in a report. The Index complements, and should correspond to, an Application Level declaration. It communicates which GRI disclosures have been reported, and the reason why certain disclosures have not been reported. The Index is also the gateway for finding all reported sustainability information. It should be able to easily have clear and direct referencing, and if used online, can be an interactive navigation tool. By using the Index, report users should be able to easily find specific data.
Application Level check methodology

The most important aspect of the GRI Application Level Check revolves around the GRI Content Index. This Index is the basis for determining whether or not an organization has reported on the required set and number of standard disclosures (Profile Disclosures, Disclosures on Management Approach, Performance Indicators) for a particular Application Level.

When GRI finds that the Index does not meet the requirements for the Application Level declared by the organization, a set of action points will be provided to the reporting organization in order to correct this.

A GRI Content Index template (Excel file) can be downloaded from GRI’s website, which a reporting organization is required to complete for the GRI Application Level Check and can also be included in its report.

As a secondary step, GRI takes a sample of the standard disclosures and determines whether the reporting claims made in the Index can be substantiated. For this purpose, GRI checks the text to see if:

- A quantitative standard disclosure has been answered with a quantitative response in-line with the disclosure.
- A qualitative standard disclosure has been answered with a qualitative response in-line with the disclosure.

Application Levels and assurance

GRI recommends the use of external assurance.

For each of the Application Levels, a “+” can be added to the Level when a reporting organization has had its reporting externally assured. GRI has identified six key qualities for external assurance of reports. The external assurance:

- should be conducted by groups or individuals external to the organization who are demonstrably competent in both the subject matter and assurance practices;
- is implemented in a manner that is systematic, documented, evidence-based, and is characterized by defined procedures;
- assesses whether the report provides a reasonable and balanced presentation of performance, taking into consideration the veracity of the data in a report as well as the overall selection of content;
- utilizes groups or individuals to conduct the assurance who are not unduly limited by their relationship with the organization or its stakeholders to reach and publish an independent and impartial conclusion on the report;
- assesses the extent to which the report preparer has applied the GRI Reporting Framework (including the Reporting Principles) in the course of reaching its conclusions; and
- results in an opinion or set of conclusions that is publicly available in written form, and a statement from the assurance provider on their relationship to the report preparer.

If GRI is requested to check a “plus” (+) level report it will check for the presence of a statement from the assurance provider but will not conduct reviews to determine whether external assurance has met the above-listed criteria.

The Application Levels are intended to demonstrate a pathway for incrementally expanding approaches to reporting using the GRI Reporting Framework. They are in no way intended as substitutes for or equivalents to external assurance.
Indicator Protocols Set
Program Effectiveness (PE)
Program Effectiveness

Performance Indicators

Aspect: Affected Stakeholder Engagement
- **NG01** Processes for involvement of affected stakeholder groups in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs.

Aspect: Feedback, Complaints and Action
- **NG02** Mechanisms for feedback and complaints in relation to programs and policies and for determining actions to take in response to breaches of policies.

Aspect: Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
- **NG03** System for program monitoring, evaluation and learning, (including measuring program effectiveness and impact), resulting changes to programs, and how they are communicated.

Aspect: Gender and Diversity
- **NG04** Measures to integrate gender and diversity into program design and implementation, and the monitoring, evaluation, and learning cycle.

Aspect: Public Awareness and Advocacy
- **NG05** Processes to formulate, communicate, implement, and change advocacy positions and public awareness campaigns.

Aspect: Coordination
- **NG06** Processes to take into account and coordinate with the activities of other actors.
**NGO1 Processes for involvement of affected stakeholder groups in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs**

1. **Relevance**

   Participation of affected stakeholders in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs is a core value for many NGOs.

   This indicator allows organizations to demonstrate the extent to which affected stakeholders participate in all of the organization’s processes. This includes providing a clear definition of who is participating and how they are participating, as evidence of the degree of involvement.

   Reporting on the inclusion of affected stakeholders’ perspectives can contribute to understanding how an organization ensures program effectiveness and sustainability, ownership and empowerment, program legitimacy, and the overall quality of programs.

   Involvement in this context refers to effective participation along an engagement continuum which includes: information sharing, dialogue, consultation, collaboration, partnership and empowerment/self determination.

2. **Compilation**

   2.1 Refer to SO1 for reporting on activities that assess and manage the impacts of non core program related operations on communities.

   2.2 Identify stakeholder groups. Refer to G3 disclosure 4.14, but specify in particular affected stakeholders, as per the organization’s mission statement.

   2.3 Identify processes for involvement of stakeholders, and in particular affected stakeholder groups (as per the organization’s mission statement), in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs.

   2.4 Identify how decisions and decision making processes are communicated to stakeholders.

   2.5 Report how stakeholders participated in each stage of the process (e.g., design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation). This could refer to means of participation such as community consultations, stakeholder panels, focus groups, polling, interviews, etc. and this could include reference to the process used to define stakeholders.

2.6 Report how feedback from stakeholders affected the decision making process or reshaped policies and procedures.

3. **Definitions**

**Affected Stakeholder**

The G3 Guidelines define ‘stakeholder’ generically as: “...broadly […] those groups or individuals: (a) that can reasonably be expected to be significantly affected by the organization’s activities, products, and/or services; or (b) whose actions can reasonably be expected to affect the ability of the organization to successfully implement its strategies and achieve its objectives.”

The term ‘Affected Stakeholders’ is used specifically to designate those individuals, communities, or causes that may intentionally or unintentionally be impacted positively or negatively by the work of the organization, and to whom specific accountability duties arise.

4. **Documentation**

   Refer to policies.

5. **References**

   See Additional NGO references (page 48 of RG & NGOSS).
NGO2  Mechanisms for feedback and complaints in relation to programs and policies and for determining actions to take in response to breaches of policies

1. Relevance
This indicator allows organizations to demonstrate their ability to systematically self-correct programs and policies on the basis of feedback and complaints received. Disclosing on the implementation and management of feedback mechanisms also allows internal managers and external stakeholders to assess the organization’s consistency between stated policies and practice and whether programs and policies are in fact working, through evidence-based assessment. The commitment and ability of an organization to adapt programs and policies based on external feedback is also a measure of the degree of accountability and transparency of the organization. However, organizations may also be exposed to purely vexatious complaints, from which they may wish to protect themselves against.

2. Compilation

2.1 Refer to G3 disclosure 4.17 for reporting on concerns raised through stakeholder engagement related to general activities and operations.

Refer to indicator PR8 for reporting on number of substantiated complaints regarding breaches of rights of individuals including affected stakeholders, service users, members, donors, customers, to privacy, and against losses of personal data.

2.2 Identify the feedback and complaints mechanisms in place throughout the organization in relation to its programs and policies. Include reference to the role of any independent complaints mechanisms and safeguards to protect complainants (e.g., whistle blowing policy). This refers to mechanisms to receive complaints from internal and external sources. Reporting on the use of auditing mechanisms and other formal internal assessment processes is addressed under indicator NGO9.

2.3 Identify mechanisms for assessing complaints and determining the response required, including how the organization distinguishes between vexatious and legitimate complaints.

2.4 Report feedback and complaints mechanisms in relation to programs and policies and mechanisms for determining what actions are required in response.

3. Definitions

Vexatious complaints
These are complaints which are brought solely to harass or subdue an adversary. These may include bringing lawsuits or repetitive, burdensome, unwarranted filing of legal actions.

4. Documentation
Potential information sources include the main office of the Board secretariat where the policies are kept.

5. References
None.
NGO3 System for program monitoring, evaluation and learning (including measuring program effectiveness and impact), resulting changes to programs, and how they are communicated

1. Relevance
This indicator allows organizations to report on their system for program monitoring, evaluation and learning and to give relevant examples. This information can provide key insights into an organization’s ability to ascertain the quality and effectiveness of its programs and measure the impact of its policies, programs and activities.

An organization’s performance in managing its system for program monitoring and evaluation provides insights into the organization’s responsiveness and ability to adjust policies and programs where necessary.

2. Compilation
2.1 Identify the organization’s system for program monitoring and evaluation (including measuring program effectiveness and impact).

This could be an internally developed methodology or follow an internationally recognized system of monitoring and evaluation. Refer specifically to the use of any methods and systems for ongoing monitoring and evaluation.

2.2 Identify how results from program monitoring and evaluation contribute to internal learning processes (e.g., incorporation of monitoring and evaluation results in staff training programs).

2.3 Identify instances of adjustments to policy and programs as a result of monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

2.4 Identify how the organization internally and externally communicated adjustments to policies and programs.

2.5 Report on the system for program monitoring, evaluation, and learning (including measuring program effectiveness and impact), resulting changes to programs, and how they are communicated.

3. Definitions
None.

4. Documentation
Potential information sources include the main office of the Board secretariat where the policies are kept.

5. References
See Additional NGO references (page 48 of RG & NGOSS).
NGO4 Measures to integrate gender and diversity into program design and implementation, and the monitoring, evaluation, and learning cycle

1. Relevance

The need to include sensitivity and responsiveness to gender and diversity in program design and implementation is widely accepted and expected by key stakeholders in the NGO sector. This indicator allows an organization to demonstrate the robustness of its approach to integrating gender and diversity issues into the program life cycle.

Organizations can also report on the extent to which they embrace human rights declarations and equal opportunities policies, as this can provide an insight into inclusiveness in program design.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify the organization’s policies related to diversity of all types (gender, ethnicity, age, etc.) and how these inform program design and implementation.

2.2 Identify where the organization has specific norms and standards particular to certain social or political contexts.

2.3 Identify the organization’s tools for diversity analysis in relation to its program design and implementation.

2.4 Identify actions taken in program design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and learning related to achieving gender and diversity goals.

2.5 Report measures to integrate gender and diversity into program design and implementation, and the monitoring, evaluation and learning cycle.

3. Definitions

None.

4. Documentation

Potential information sources include the main office of the Board secretariat where the policies are kept. Refer to policies human rights legislation, Human Resources policies.

5. References

None.
NGO5 Processes to formulate, communicate, implement, and change advocacy positions and public awareness campaigns

1. Relevance

This indicator provides insights on the extent to which NGOs which are engaged in public awareness raising and advocacy are able to base their activities and positions on evidence-based, truthful, and accurate assessments.

It can also provide a general sense of whether an organization's advocacy and public awareness activities are consistent with its mission and grounded in advancing defined public interests.

Reporting on this indicator allows an organization to demonstrate the extent to which it has: clear processes for deciding on public policy positions (and choosing partners); explicit ethical policies to guide choices of advocacy strategy; and ways of identifying and managing potential conflicts of interest among various stakeholders.

The effectiveness of advocacy and public awareness campaigns should be reported under 'other indicators' in the Program Effectiveness section.

2. Compilation

2.1 Refer to SO5 for reporting on public policy positions and participation in public policy development and lobbying when these activities do not form part of core program activities.

2.2 Identify the process for arriving at public awareness and advocacy positions (e.g., evidence-based research, stakeholder participation, analysis of gender and diversity issues).

2.3 Identify how the organization ensures that consistency is maintained during implementation of advocacy and public awareness campaigns.

2.4 Identify how the organization ensures that its public criticisms are fair and accurate.

2.5 Identify the process for corrective adjustment of advocacy positions and public awareness campaigns.

2.6 Identify corrective actions taken.

2.7 Identify where public awareness and advocacy positions are published.

2.8 Identify the organization's process for exiting a campaign.

2.9 Report the process to formulate, communicate and implement advocacy positions and public awareness campaigns.

3. Definitions

Public awareness

Refers to activities to inform and educate different stakeholders on public issues.

Advocacy

Includes a range of activities such as public campaigning and mobilization, efforts to influence and participation in legislative processes, research, and litigation.

4. Documentation

Refer to policies, e.g., publications sign-off procedure, policy positions and procedures.

5. References

See Additional NGO references (page 48 of RG & NGOSS).
**NGO6 Processes to take into account and coordinate with the activities of other actors**

1. **Relevance**
   
   This indicator provides insights on the robustness of the organization’s ability to coordinate with the activities of others. Coordination between NGOs can reduce program duplication, which is an issue that many internal and external stakeholders consider important to the effectiveness of NGO programs. It also supports partnerships between organizations, which potentially can improve cost effectiveness, enhance impact, promote learning within and between organizations, and enable NGOs to develop programs that take into account best practice.

   Detailed disclosures of processes will enable internal and external stakeholders to assess the extent to which an organization is able to identify opportunities for engagement with other actors to improve its own effectiveness.

   For the purpose of this indicator, actors are organizations of any type and individuals working in the same or a related field of work.

2. **Compilation**

   2.1 Identify any internal requirements, when undertaking research and analysis during the course of planning programs to identify potential for duplication of the efforts of other actors.

   2.2 Identify processes that promote learning from the work of other actors (e.g., peer review processes).

   2.3 Identify the processes undertaken during the course of program planning and implementation to identify opportunities for partnerships with other organizations.

   2.4 Report on the process to take into account and coordinate with the activities of other actors.

3. **Definitions**

   None.

4. **Documentation**

   Relevant information sources include policies and partnership programs.

5. **References**

   - The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.
Indicator Protocols Set
Economic (EC)
Economic Performance Indicators

Aspect: Resource Allocation

**NG07** Resource allocation.

Aspect: Ethical Fundraising

**NG08** Sources of funding by category and five largest donors and monetary value of their contribution.

Aspect: Economic Performance

**EC1** Direct economic value generated and distributed, including revenues, operating costs, employee compensation, donations and other community investments, retained earnings, and payments to capital providers and governments.

See Sector-Specific Commentary in Protocol.

**EC2** Financial implications and other risks and opportunities for the organization’s activities due to climate change.

**EC3** Coverage of the organization’s defined benefit plan obligations.

**EC4** Significant financial assistance received from government.

Aspect: Indirect Economic Impacts

**EC8** Development and impact of infrastructure investments and services provided primarily for public benefit through commercial, in-kind, or pro bono engagement.

**EC9** Understanding and describing significant indirect economic impacts, including the extent of impacts.

**EC5** Range of ratios of standard entry level wage compared to local minimum wage at significant locations of operation.

**EC6** Policy, practices, and proportion of spending on locally-based suppliers at significant locations of operation.

**EC7** Procedures for local hiring and proportion of senior management hired from the local community at significant locations of operation.
Relevance
Performance data generated in response to the Indicators in this section are expected to illustrate:

- The flow of capital amongst different stakeholders; and
- The major economic impacts of the organization throughout society.

An organization’s economic performance is fundamental to understanding the organization and its basis for sustainability. However, this information is already well reported in many countries in annual financial accounts and reports. Financial statements provide information about the financial position, performance, and changes in the financial position of an entity. They also indicate the results achieved in managing the financial capital provided to the organization.

What is reported less frequently, but often desired by readers of sustainability reports, is the organization’s contribution to the sustainability of the economic systems in which the organization operates. An organization may be financially viable, but this may have been achieved by creating significant externalities that impact other stakeholders. Economic Performance Indicators are intended to measure the economic outcomes of an organization’s activities and the effect of these outcomes on a broad range of stakeholders.

The Indicators in this section are divided into three categories:

1. **Economic Performance**. This category of Indicators addresses the direct economic impacts of the organization’s activities and the economic value added by these activities.

2. **Market Presence**. These Indicators provide information about interactions in specific markets.

3. **Indirect Economic Impacts**. These Indicators measure the economic impacts created as a result of the organization’s economic activities and transactions.

There are several linkages between different Economic Indicators. Elements of the value-added table in EC1 are related to other Economic Indicators, and there are also connections between wages and benefits (EC1-2.1c and EC5), transactions with governments (EC1-2.1e and EC4), and community investments (EC1-2.1f and EC8). The Economic Indicators are also closely related to indicators in other Protocols, including:

- EC1-2.1c, EC5, and LA14 regarding wages;
- EC1-2.1c, EC3, and LA3 regarding employee benefits;
- EC1-2.1f, EC6, EC8, and SO1 regarding interactions with local communities;
- EC2 (climate change risk) and EN3 (direct energy consumption); and
- EC10 (indirect economic impacts) and SO1 (socio-economic impacts on communities).

Definitions
**Significant locations of operation**
Locations where single-market revenues, costs, stakeholder payments, production, or employee numbers represent a significant share of the organization’s global total, and are sufficient to be particularly important to decision-making by the organization or its stakeholders. Combined, these locations would likely represent the majority of the above figures. Reporting organizations should identify and explain the specific criteria used to determine what is significant. Reporting organizations should use International Accounting Standards 14 (IAS14) as a reference in defining significant locations of operation.

General References
- The International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) website (www.iasb.org) provides information about relevant International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).
- In preparing responses to the Economic Indicators, data should be compiled from figures in the organization’s audited financial accounts or its internally audited management accounts, wherever possible. In all cases, the data should be compiled using either:
  - The relevant International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and Interpretations of Standards, published by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) (some Indicator Protocols reference specific International Accounting Standards, which should be consulted); or
• National or regional standards recognized internationally for the purpose of financial reporting.

The reporting organization should clearly indicate which standards were applied and provide clear references to the relevant sources.

**Segmental reporting**

Reporting organizations should use International Accounting Standards 14 (IAS14) as a reference in defining ‘local’, as required by Indicators EC1, EC5, EC6, and EC7.
**NGO7 Resource allocation**

1. **Relevance**

NGOs receive funding and resources from a range of public and private sources on the basis of their commitment to apply these to the advancement of their stated mission. In addition, they may also benefit from tax exemptions or other benefits based on their objective of pursuing a non-profit, public interest. As such, there is particular emphasis on accountability for the use and allocations of resources. This indicator provides a basis for identifying the system by which an NGO tracks its resource use and thereby provides insight into its ability to ensure funding is used for the purpose intended by donors.

2. **Compilation**

2.1 Identify the processes in place to track the use of resources for the purposes intended, including both cash and in-kind contributions. This refers to the internal processes of financial controls.

2.2 Identify the standard(s) that serve as the basis for this tracking system. These standards may include voluntary codes or mandatory requirements that relate to areas such as:

- Internal accounting and bookkeeping systems;
- Auditing of financial records or other systems;
- External reporting; and
- Calculation of program expenses and/or other overheads.

2.3 These standards may be national or international. For organizations that operate in more than one legal jurisdiction, indicate which (if any) standards are applied across all jurisdictions. If no standards are applied across all jurisdictions, then identify the basis upon which individual jurisdictions are expected to set internal standards for tracking and allocating resources.

2.4 Report the standards used for tracking and allocating resources, including the issuer of the standard.

3. **Definitions**

None.

4. **Documentation**

Suggestions for information sources: financial department.

5. **References**

None.
NGO8 Sources of funding by category and five largest donors and monetary value of their contribution

1. Relevance
NGOs seek funding from a variety of sources. These funds should come from ethical sources and the sources should not compromise an NGO’s independence.

2. Compilation
2.1 Identify sources of funding by category (e.g., government, corporate, foundation, private, membership fees, in-kind donations, and other).

2.2 Identify the five largest donors in monetary value. For in-kind donations, use estimates of the monetary value of the donation, using standard accounting principles.

2.3 Report aggregated monetary value of funding received by source.

2.4 Report the five largest donors and the monetary value of their contribution.

3. Definitions
None.

4. Documentation
Potential information sources included the finance department or fundraising/marketing department.

5. References
None.
EC1 Direct economic value generated and distributed, including revenues, operating costs, employee compensation, donations and other community investments, retained earnings, and payments to capital providers and governments

1. Relevance

Data on the creation and distribution of economic value provide a basic indication of how the organization has created wealth for stakeholders. Several components of the Economic Value Generated and Distributed (EVG&D) table also provide an economic profile of the reporting organization, which may be useful for normalizing other performance figures. If presented in country-level detail, EVG&D can provide a useful picture of the direct monetary value added to local economies.

For NGOs where it reads Economic Value Generated and Distributed (EVG&D) should be understood as ‘Economic Value’.

2. Compilation

2.1 Presentation:

- The EVG&D data should be compiled, where possible, from data in the organization’s audited financial or profit and loss (P&L) statement, or its internally audited management accounts. It is also recommended that the economic value data be presented on an accruals basis in a table that includes the basic components for the organization’s global operations as included in the table below. Data can also be presented on a cash basis where this can be justified and disclosed in a table that includes the basic components as listed below.

To better assess local economic impacts, EVG&D should be presented separately at country, regional, or market levels, where significant. Reporting organizations should identify and explain their criteria for defining significance.

2.2 Guidance on EVG&D Table Line Entries

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<thead>
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<th>Component Comment</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct economic value generated</td>
<td>a) Net income/Revenues:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Operating costs</td>
<td>For NGOs this includes payments to suppliers, non-strategic investments, royalties, and for commercial organizations this also includes facilitation payments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Employee wages and benefits</td>
<td>Total monetary outflows for employees (current payments, not future commitments) Total employee costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Payments to providers of capital</td>
<td>All financial payments made to the providers of the organization’s capital, Fund balance distributed at dissolution of the entity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Payments to government (by country – see note below)</td>
<td>Gross taxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) Community investments</td>
<td>Voluntary contributions and investment of funds in the broader community (includes donations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic value retained</td>
<td>Economic value generated less Economic value distributed</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

NGO Sector Supplement
• Net income/ Revenues from sale of assets include physical assets (property, infrastructure, equipment) and intangibles (e.g., intellectual property rights, designs, and brand names).

b) Operating costs:
• Cash payments made outside the reporting organization for materials, product components, facilities, and services purchased.

For NGOs this should be understood as operating costs only. For commercial organizations this includes property rental, license fees, facilitation payments (since these have a clear commercial objective), royalties, payments for contract workers, employee training costs (where outside trainers are used), employee protective clothing, etc.

c) Employee wages and benefits:
• Total payroll means employee salaries, including amounts paid to government institutions (employee taxes, levies, and unemployment funds) on behalf of employees. Non-employees working in an operational role should normally not be included here, but rather under Operating Costs as a service purchased.

• Total benefits include regular contributions (e.g., to pensions, insurance, company vehicles, and private health), as well as other employee support such as housing, interest-free loans, public transport assistance, educational grants, and redundancy payments. They do not include training, costs of protective equipment, or other cost items directly related to the employee's job function.

d) Payments to providers of funds:
Most NGOs may read this as financial payments made to banks and other providers of capital (apart from donors).

• Dividends to all shareholders;

• Interest payments made to providers of loans.

• This includes interest on all forms of debt and borrowings (not only long-term debt) and also arrears of dividends due to preferred shareholders.

e) Payments to government:
• All company taxes (corporate, income, property, etc.) and related penalties paid at the international, national, and local levels. This figure should not include deferred taxes because they may not be paid. For organizations operating in more than one country, report taxes paid by country. The organization should report which definition of segmentation has been used.

f) Community investments if other than investments made to support the NGO core goals:
• Voluntary donations and investment of funds in the broader community where the target beneficiaries are external to the company. These include contributions to charities, NGOs and research institutes (unrelated to the company’s commercial R&D), funds to support community infrastructure (e.g., recreational facilities) and direct costs of social programs (including arts and educational events). The amount included should account for actual expenditures in the reporting period, not commitments.

• For infrastructure investments, the calculation of the total investment should include costs of goods and labor in addition to capital costs. For support of ongoing facilities or programs (e.g., an organization funds the daily operations of a public facility), the reported investment should include operating costs.

• This excludes legal and commercial activities or where the purpose of the investment is exclusively commercial. Donations to political parties are included but are also addressed separately in more detail in SO6.

• Any infrastructure investment that is driven primarily by core (organization) needs (e.g., building a road to a mine or factory) or to facilitate the business operations of the organization should not be included.
The calculation of investment may include infrastructure built outside the main business activities of the reporting organization, such as a school or hospital for employees and their families.

2.3 Refer to NGO7 and NGO8 for reporting on NGO specific income streams.

3. Definitions

None

4. Documentation

Finance, treasury, or accounting departments should have the information required by this Indicator.

5. References

- International Accounting Standard (IAS) 12 on Income Taxes, IAS 14 on segment Reporting, IAS 18 on Revenues, and IAS 19 on Employee Benefits should be consulted.
**EC2 Financial implications and other risks and opportunities for the organization’s activities due to climate change**

1. **Relevance**

Climate change presents risks and opportunities to organizations, their investors, and their stakeholders. Organizations may face physical risks due to changes in the climate system and weather patterns. These risks may include the impact of increased storms; changes in sea level, ambient temperature, and water availability; impacts on the workforce such as health effects (e.g., heat-related illness or disease); or the need to relocate operations.

As governments move to regulate activities that contribute to climate change, organizations that are directly or indirectly responsible for emissions face regulatory risk through increased costs or other factors impacting competitiveness. Limits on greenhouse gas emissions can also create opportunities for organizations as new technologies and markets are created. This is especially the case for organizations that can use or produce energy and energy products more efficiently.

EN16 allows for disclosure on total amount of greenhouse gas emissions, while EN18 discloses total reductions achieved and initiatives for reducing the amount of emissions the reporting organization produces.

2. **Compilation**

2.1 Report whether the organization’s senior governance body considered climate change and the risks and opportunities it presents to the organization.

2.2 Report risks and/or opportunities posed by climate change that have potential financial implications for the organization, including:

- Risks due to physical changes associated with climate change (e.g., impacts of modified weather patterns and heat-related illness);
- Regulatory risks (e.g., the cost of activities and systems to comply with new regulations);
- Opportunities to provide new technologies, products, or services to address challenges related to climate change; and
- Potential competitive advantages created for the organization by regulatory or other technology changes linked to climate change.

2.3 Report whether management has quantitatively estimated the financial implications (e.g., cost of insurance and carbon credits) of climate change for the organization. Where possible, quantification would be beneficial. If quantified, disclose financial implications and the tools used to quantify.

3. **Definitions**

None.

4. **Documentation**

Records or minutes of the organization’s governance bodies, including environmental committees may have the information required by this Indicator.

5. **References**

None.
EC3  Coverage of the organization’s defined benefit plan obligations

1. Relevance

When an organization provides a retirement plan for its workforce, these benefits could become commitments that members of the schemes plan on for their long-term economic well-being. Defined benefits plans have potential implications for employers in terms of the obligations that need to be met. Other types of plans, like defined contributions, do not guarantee access to a retirement plan or the quality of benefits. The type of plan chosen has implications for both employees and employers. Conversely, a properly funded pension plan can help to attract and maintain a stable workforce and support long-term financial and strategic planning on the part of the employer.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify whether the structure of retirement plans offered to employees are based on:

- Defined benefit plans; or
- Other types of benefits.

2.2 For defined benefit plans, identify whether the employer’s obligations to pay pensions under the plan are to be met directly by the organization’s general resources or through a fund held and maintained separately from the resources of the organization.

2.3 Where the plan’s liabilities are met by the organization’s general resources, report the estimated value of those liabilities.

2.4 Where a separate fund exists to pay the plan’s pension liabilities, report:

- The extent to which the scheme’s liabilities are estimated to be covered by the assets that have been set aside to meet them;
- The basis on which that estimate has been arrived at; and
- When that estimate was made.

2.5 Where a fund set up to pay the plan’s pension liabilities is not fully covered, explain the strategy, if any, adopted by the employer to work towards full coverage, and the timescale, if any, by which the employer hopes to achieve full coverage.

2.6 Report the percentage of salary contributed by employee or employer.

2.7 Report the level of participation in retirement plans (e.g., participation in mandatory or voluntary schemes, regional or country-based schemes, or those with financial impact).

2.8 Different jurisdictions (e.g., countries) have varying interpretations and guidance regarding calculations used to determine plan coverage. Calculate in accordance with the regulations and methods for relevant jurisdictions, and report aggregated totals. Consolidation techniques should be the same as those applied in preparing the financial accounts of the organization.

Note that benefit pension plans are part of the International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19, however, IAS 19 covers more issues.

3. Definitions

Full coverage
Plan assets that meet or exceed plan obligations.

4. Documentation

Finance or accounting departments should have the information required by this Indicator.

5. References

- International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 on Employee Benefits.
**EC4 Significant financial assistance received from government**

1. **Relevance**

   This Indicator provides a measure of host governments’ contributions to the reporting organization. The significant financial assistance received from a government, in comparison with taxes paid, can be useful for developing a balanced picture of the transactions between the reporting organization and government.

2. **Compilation**

   2.1 Report significant estimated aggregate financial value on an accruals basis for the following:

   - Tax relief/credits;
   - Subsidies;
   - Investment grants, research and development grants, and other relevant types of grants;
   - Awards;
   - Royalty holidays;
   - Financial assistance from Export Credit Agencies (ECAs);
   - Financial incentives; and
   - Other financial benefits received or receivable from any government for any operation.

   2.2 Report whether the government is present in the shareholding structure.

3. **Definitions**

   **Significant financial assistance**

   Significant direct or indirect financial benefits that do not represent a transaction of goods and services, but which are an incentive or compensation for actions taken, the cost of an asset, or expenses incurred. The provider of financial assistance does not expect a direct financial return from the assistance offered.

4. **Documentation**

   Financial accountants include items of IAS 20 individually but these are not consolidated, as this Indicator requires.

5. **References**

EC5 Range of ratios of standard entry level wage compared to local minimum wage at significant locations of operation

1. Relevance
Economic well-being is one of the ways in which an organization invests in its employees. This Indicator helps demonstrate how an organization contributes to the economic well-being of employees in significant locations of operation. The Indicator also provides an indication of the competitiveness of the organization’s wages, and information relevant for assessing the effect of wages on the local labor market. Offering wages above the minimum can be one factor in building strong community relations, employee loyalty, and strengthening an organization’s social license to operate. This Indicator is most relevant for organizations in which a substantial portion of their workforce is compensated in a manner or scale that is closely linked to laws or regulations on minimum wage.

2. Compilation
2.1 Identify whether a significant proportion of the workforce is compensated based on wages subject to minimum wage rules.

2.2 In percentage terms, compare local minimum wage to the reporting organization’s entry level wage at significant locations of operation.

2.3 Identify the variation in the ratios across significant locations of operation.

2.4 Report the distribution of the ratio of the entry level wage to the minimum wage.

2.5 Report the definition used for ‘significant locations’.

2.6 For organizations that only offer salaried employment, the salary should be converted into an hourly estimate.

2.7 Indicate whether a local minimum wage is absent or variable in significant locations of operation. In circumstances in which different minimums could be used as a reference, explain which minimum wage is being used.

3. Definitions
Local minimum wage
Minimum wage refers to compensation per hour or other unit of time for employment allowed under law. Since some countries have numerous minimum wages (e.g., by state/province or by employment category) identify which minimum wage is being used.

Entry level wage
Entry level wage should be defined by the full-time wage offered to an employee in the lowest employment category. Intern or apprentice wages should not be considered.

4. Documentation
Potential sources of information include the payroll department of the organization or finance, treasury, or accounting departments. Pertinent legislation in each country/region of operation may also provide information for this Indicator.

5. References
None.
EC6 Policy, practices, and proportion of spending on locally-based suppliers at significant locations of operation

1. Relevance

The influence an organization can have on a local economy goes beyond direct jobs and payment of wages and taxes. By supporting local business in the supply chain, an organization can indirectly attract additional investment to the local economy.

Reporting organizations can gain or retain their ‘social license to operate’ in part by demonstrating positive local economic impacts. Local sourcing can be a strategy to help ensure supply, support a stable local economy, and can prove to be more efficient for remote settings. The proportion of local spending can also be an important factor in contributing to the local economy and maintaining community relations. However, the overall impact of local sourcing will also depend on the sustainability of the supplier over the long term.

2. Compilation

2.1 Report the organization’s geographic definition of ‘local’.

2.2 For the following calculations, note that percentages should be based on invoices or commitments made during the reporting period (i.e., accruals accounting).

2.3 Report whether the organization has a policy or common practices for preferring locally based suppliers either organization-wide or for specific locations.

2.4 If so, state the percentage of the procurement budget used for significant locations of operation that is spent on suppliers local to that operation (e.g., % of goods and supplies purchased locally). Local purchases can be made either from a budget managed at the location of operation or at the organization’s headquarters.

2.5 Indicate the factors that influence supplier selection (e.g., costs, environmental and social performance) in addition to their geographic location.

3. Definitions

Locally-based suppliers

Providers of materials, products, and services that are based in the same geographic market as the reporting organization (i.e., no trans-national payments to the supplier are made). The geographic definition of ‘local’ may vary because, in some circumstances, cities, regions within a country, and even small countries could be reasonably viewed as ‘local’.

4. Documentation

None.

5. References

None.
EC7 Procedures for local hiring and proportion of senior management hired from the local community at significant locations of operation

1. Relevance

Selection of staff and senior management is based on a range of considerations. Ensuring that senior management is populated with local residents can benefit the local community and the organization’s ability to understand local needs. Diversity within a management team and the inclusion of members from the local area can enhance human capital, the economic benefit to the local community, and the organization’s ability to understand local needs.

2. Compilation

2.1 Report whether the organization has a global policy or common practices for granting preference to local residents when hiring in significant locations of operation.

2.2 If so, report the proportion of senior management in significant locations of operation from the local community. Use data on full-time employees to calculate this percentage.

2.3 Report the definition of ‘senior management’ used.

3. Definitions

Local

Local refers to individuals either born in or who have the legal right to reside indefinitely (e.g., naturalized citizens or permanent visa holders) in the same geographic market as the operation. Reporting organizations can choose their own definition of ‘local’ because, in some cases, cities, regions, and even small countries could be reasonably viewed as local. However, the definition should be clearly disclosed.

4. Documentation

Personnel or human resources departments should have the information required by this Indicator.

5. References

None.
EC8 Development and impact of infrastructure investments and services provided primarily for public benefit through commercial, in-kind, or pro bono engagement

1. Relevance

As well as generating and distributing economic value, an organization can affect an economy through its investments in infrastructure. The impacts of infrastructure investment can extend beyond the scope of the organization’s own business operations and over a longer timescale. This might include transport links, utilities, community social facilities, sports centers, health and welfare centers, etc. Along with investment in its own operations, this is one measure of an organization’s capital contribution to the economy.

2. Compilation

2.1 Explain the extent of development (e.g., size, cost, duration) of significant investments and support, and the current or expected impacts (positive or negative) on communities and local economies. Indicate whether these investments and services are commercial, in-kind, or pro bono engagement.

2.2 Report whether the organization conducted a community needs assessment to determine infrastructure and other services needed. If so, briefly explain the results of the assessment.

3. Definitions

Infrastructure

Facilities (e.g., water supply facility, road, school, or hospital) built primarily to provide a public service or good rather than a commercial purpose, and from which the organization does not seek to gain direct economic benefit.

Services supported

Providing a public benefit either through direct payment of operating costs or through staffing the facility/service with the reporting organization’s own employees. Public benefit can also include public services.

4. Documentation

Finance, treasury, or accounting departments should have the information required by this Indicator.

5. References

None.
EC9 Understanding and describing significant indirect economic impacts, including the extent of impacts

1. Relevance

Indirect economic impacts are an important part of an organization’s economic influence in the context of sustainable development. Whereas direct economic impacts and market influence tend to focus on the immediate consequences of monetary flows to stakeholders, indirect economic impacts include the additional impacts generated as money circulates through the economy.

Direct economic impacts are often measured as the value of transactions between the reporting organization and its stakeholders, while indirect economic impacts are the results - sometimes non-monetary - of the transaction. Indirect impacts are an important aspect of an organization’s role as a participant or agent in socio-economic change, particularly in developing economies. Indirect impacts are particularly important to assess and report in relation to local communities and regional economies.

For management purposes, indirect economic impacts are an important indication of where risks to reputation may develop, or where opportunities may emerge to expand market access or a social license to operate.

2. Compilation

2.1 Explain work undertaken to understand the indirect economic impacts the organization has at the national, regional, or local level.

2.2 Report examples of indirect economic impacts, both positive and negative, such as:

- Changing the productivity of organizations, sectors, or the whole economy (e.g., through greater adoption or distribution of information technology);
- Economic development in areas of high poverty (e.g., number of dependents supported through income from one job);
- Economic impact of improving or deteriorating social or environmental conditions (e.g., changing job market in an area converted from small family farms to large plantations or the economic impacts of pollution);
- Availability of products and services for those on low incomes (e.g., preferential pricing of pharmaceuticals contributes to a healthier population that can participate more fully in the economy; pricing structures that exceed the economic capacity of those on low incomes);
- Enhancing skills and knowledge amongst a professional community or in a geographical region (e.g., need for a supplier base creates a magnet for companies with skilled workers, which in turn engenders new learning institutes);
- Jobs supported in the supply chain or distribution chain (e.g., assessing the impacts of growth or contraction of the organization on its suppliers);
- Stimulating, enabling, or limiting foreign direct investment (e.g., expansion or closure of an infrastructure service in a developing country can lead to increased or reduced foreign direct investment);
- Economic impact of change in location of operations or activities (e.g., outsourcing of jobs to an overseas location); and
- Economic impact of the use of products and services (e.g., linkage between economic growth patterns and use of particular products and services).

2.3 Report the significance of the impacts in the context of external benchmarks and stakeholder priorities, such as national and international standards, protocols, and policy agendas

3. Definitions

**Indirect economic impact**

An additional consequence of the direct impact of financial transactions and the flow of money between an organization and its stakeholders.

**Economic impact**

A change in the productive potential of the economy that can have an influence on a community’s or stakeholder’s well-being and longer-term prospects for development.

4. Documentation

None.

5. References

None.
Indicator Protocols Set
Environment (EN)
Environment

Performance Indicators

**Aspect: Materials**

**Core**
- **EN1**: Materials used by weight or volume.
- **EN2**: Percentage of materials used that are recycled input materials.

**Aspect: Energy**

**Core**
- **EN3**: Direct energy consumption by primary energy source.
- **EN4**: Indirect energy consumption by primary source.
- **EN5**: Energy saved due to conservation and efficiency improvements.

**Add**
- **EN6**: Initiatives to provide energy-efficient or renewable energy-based products and services, and reductions in energy requirements as a result of these initiatives.
- **EN7**: Initiatives to reduce indirect energy consumption and reductions achieved.

**Aspect: Water**

**Core**
- **EN8**: Total water withdrawal by source.
- **EN9**: Water sources significantly affected by withdrawal of water.

**Add**
- **EN10**: Percentage and total volume of water recycled and reused.

**Aspect: Biodiversity**

**Core**
- **EN11**: Location and size of land owned, leased, managed in, or adjacent to, protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas.

**Core**
- **EN12**: Description of significant impacts of activities, products, and services on biodiversity in protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas.
- **EN13**: Habitats protected or restored.
- **EN14**: Strategies, current actions, and future plans for managing impacts on biodiversity.
- **EN15**: Number of IUCN Red List species and national conservation list species with habitats in areas affected by operations, by level of extinction risk.

**Aspect: Emissions, Effluents, and Waste**

**Core**
- **EN16**: Total direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions by weight.
- **EN17**: Other relevant indirect greenhouse gas emissions by weight.
- **EN18**: Initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reductions achieved.
- **EN19**: Emissions of ozone-depleting substances by weight.
- **EN20**: NO$_x$, SO$_x$, and other significant air emissions by type and weight.
- **EN21**: Total water discharge by quality and destination.
- **EN22**: Total weight of waste by type and disposal method.
- **EN23**: Total number and volume of significant spills.
**EN24** Weight of transported, imported, exported, or treated waste deemed hazardous under the terms of the Basel Convention Annex I, II, III, and VIII, and percentage of transported waste shipped internationally.

**EN25** Identity, size, protected status, and biodiversity value of water bodies and related habitats significantly affected by the reporting organization’s discharges of water and runoff.

**Aspect: Products and Services**

**EN26** Initiatives to mitigate environmental impacts of activities, products and services, and extent of impact mitigation.

**EN27** Percentage of products sold and their packaging materials that are reclaimed by category.

**Aspect: Compliance**

**EN28** Monetary value of significant fines and total number of non-monetary sanctions for non-compliance with environmental laws and regulations.

**Aspect: Transport**

**EN29** Significant environmental impacts of transporting products and other goods and materials used for the organization’s operations, and transporting members of the workforce.

**Aspect: Overall**

**EN30** Total environmental protection expenditures and investments by type.
Relevance

The Aspects in the Environment Indicator set are structured to reflect the inputs, outputs, and modes of impact an organization has on the environment. Energy, water, and materials represent three standard types of inputs used by most organizations. These inputs result in outputs of environmental significance, which are captured under the Aspects of Emissions, Effluents, and Waste. Biodiversity is also related to the concepts of inputs to the extent that it can be viewed as a natural resource. However, biodiversity is also directly impacted by outputs such as pollutants.

The Aspects of Transport and Products and Services represent areas in which an organization can further impact the environment, but often through other parties such as customers or suppliers of logistics services.

Compliance and Overall Aspects are specific measures the organization takes to manage environmental performance.

The Aspects of Energy, Water, Emissions, and Biodiversity each contain several Indicators whose relationships are explained in more detail below:

Energy Aspect

The Energy Indicators cover the five most important areas of organizational energy use, which include both direct and indirect energy. Direct energy use is energy consumed by the organization and its products and services. Indirect energy use, on the other hand, is energy that is consumed by others who are serving the organization. The five different areas of energy use are to be reported as follows:

- In EN3, the direct energy consumption of the reporting organization is reported, including energy produced on-site (e.g., through the burning of gas).
- EN4 provides information on energy consumption required to produce energy purchased externally, such as electricity.
- ENS asks for energy saved due to conservation and efficiency improvements.
- EN6 addresses the development of energy-efficient products and services.
- Finally, EN7 covers the indirect energy consumption of the reporting organization’s activities.

Measurement of energy consumption is relevant to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. The burning of fossil fuels to generate energy creates emissions of carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas). To meet the aims formulated in the Kyoto Protocol and to reduce the risk of severe climate change, energy demand needs to be lowered. This can be achieved through more efficient energy use (measured under ENS and EN6) and replacing fossil fuel energy sources with renewable ones (measured under EN3 and EN4). In addition to lowering the direct consumption of energy, designing energy-efficient product and services (EN6) and reducing indirect energy consumption (EN7) (e.g., the selection of low energy-intensive raw materials or the use of services such as travel) are important strategies.

Emissions Aspect

The ‘emissions, effluents, and waste’ aspect includes Indicators that measure standard releases to the environment considered to be pollutants. These Indicators include different types of pollutants (e.g., air emissions, effluents, solid waste) that are typically recognized in regulatory frameworks (EN20-EN23, EN24). In addition, there are Indicators for two types of emissions that are the subject of international conventions- greenhouse gases (EN16 and EN17) and ozone depleting substances (EN19). EN16 can be calculated using the data reported under EN3 and EN4. EN18 addresses the emissions reductions achieved and initiatives to reduce emissions.

Definitions

Direct energy

Forms of energy that enter the reporting organization’s operational boundaries. It can be consumed either by the organization within its boundaries, or it can be exported to another user. Direct energy can appear in either primary (e.g., natural gas for heating) or intermediate (e.g., electricity for lighting) forms. It can be purchased, extracted (e.g., coal, natural gas, oil), harvested (e.g., biomass energy), collected (e.g., solar, wind), or brought into the reporting organization’s boundaries by other means.

Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)

The six main greenhouse gas emissions are:

- Carbon dioxide (CO2);
- Methane (CH4);
• Nitrous oxide (N2O);

• Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs- a group of several compounds);

• Perfluorocarbons (PFCs- a group of several compounds); and

• Sulphur hexafluoride (SF6).

**Indirect energy**

Energy produced outside the reporting organization’s organizational boundary that is consumed to supply energy for the organization’s intermediate energy needs (e.g., electricity or heating and cooling). The most common example is fuel consumed outside the reporting organization’s boundary in order to generate electricity to be used inside the organization’s boundary.

**Intermediate energy**

Forms of energy that are produced by converting primary energy into other forms. For most organizations, electricity will be the only significant form of intermediate energy. For a small percentage of organizations, other intermediate energy products might also be important, such as steam or water provided from a district heating plant or chilled water plant, or refined fuels such as synthetic fuels, biofuels, etc.

**Primary source**

The initial form of energy consumed to satisfy the reporting organization’s energy demand. This energy is used either to provide final energy services (e.g., space heating, transport) or to produce intermediate forms of energy, such as electricity and heat. Examples of primary energy include non-renewable sources such as coal, natural gas, oil, and nuclear energy. It also includes renewable sources such as biomass, solar, wind, geothermal, and hydro energy. Primary energy might be consumed on-site (e.g., natural gas to heat the reporting organization’s buildings) or off-site (e.g., natural gas consumed by the power plants that provide electricity to the reporting organization’s facilities).

**Renewable energy**

Renewable energy is derived from natural processes that are replenished constantly. This includes electricity and heat generated from solar, wind, ocean, hydropower, biomass, geothermal resources, biofuels, and hydrogen derived from renewable resources.
EN1 Materials used by weight or volume

1. Relevance
This Indicator describes the reporting organization’s contribution to the conservation of the global resource base and efforts to reduce the material intensity and increase the efficiency of the economy. These are expressed goals of the OECD Council and various national sustainability strategies. For internal managers and others interested in the financial state of the organization, material consumption relates directly to overall costs of operation. Tracking this consumption internally, either by product or product category, facilitates the monitoring of material efficiency and cost of material flows.

2. Compilation
2.1 Identify total materials used, including materials purchased from external suppliers and those obtained from internal sources (captive production and extraction activities). This can include:

- Raw materials (i.e., natural resources used for conversion to products or services such as ores, minerals, wood, etc.);
- Associated process materials (i.e., materials that are needed for the manufacturing process but are not part of the final product, such as lubricants for manufacturing machinery);
- Semi-manufactured goods or parts, including all forms of materials and components other than raw materials that are part of the final product; and
- Materials for packaging purposes.

2.2 Identify non-renewable and direct materials used. Convert any measurements into estimated weight or volume, calculated ‘as is’ rather than by ‘dry substance/weight’.

2.3 Report the total weight or volume of:

- Non-renewable materials used; and
- Direct materials used.

3. Definitions
Direct materials
Materials that are present in a final product.

Non-renewable materials
Resources that do not renew in short time periods, such as minerals, metals, oil, gas, coal, etc.

4. Documentation
Potential information sources include billing and accounting systems, and the procurement or supply management department.

5. References
**EN2 Percentage of materials used that are recycled input materials**

1. **Relevance**

   This Indicator seeks to identify the reporting organization's ability to use recycled input materials. Using these materials helps to reduce the demand for virgin material and contribute to the conservation of the global resource base. For internal managers and others interested in the financial condition of the reporting organization, substituting recycled materials can contribute to lowering overall costs of operation.

2. **Compilation**

2.1 Identify the total weight or volume of materials used as reported under EN1.

2.2 Identify the total weight or volume of recycled input materials. If estimation is required, state the estimation methods.

2.3 Report the percentage of recycled input materials used by applying the following formula:

   \[ EN2 = \frac{\text{Total recycled input materials used}}{\text{Input materials used}} \times 100 \]

3. **Definitions**

   **Recycled input materials**

   Materials that replace virgin materials that are purchased or obtained from internal or external sources, and that are not by-products and non-product outputs (NPO) produced by the reporting organization.

4. **Documentation**

   Potential information sources include billing and accounting systems, the procurement or supply management department, and internal production and waste disposal records.

5. **References**

**EN3 Direct energy consumption by primary energy source**

**1. Relevance**

The ability of the reporting organization to use energy efficiently can be revealed by calculating the amount of energy it consumes. Energy consumption has a direct effect on operational costs and exposure to fluctuations in energy supply and prices. The environmental footprint of the organization is shaped in part by its choice of energy sources. Changes in the balance of these sources can indicate the organization’s efforts to minimize its environmental impacts.

Information on the consumption of primary energy sources supports an assessment of how the organization might be affected by emerging environmental regulations such as the Kyoto Protocol. The consumption of fossil fuels is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, and energy consumption is directly linked to the organization’s greenhouse gas emissions.

Replacing fossil fuel energy sources with renewable ones is essential for combating climate change and other environmental impacts created by the extraction and processing of energy. Supporting renewable and efficient energy technology also reduces the reporting organization’s current and future dependency on non-renewable energy sources, and its exposure to potential volatility in prices and supply.

This Indicator measures the reporting organization’s consumption of direct primary energy sources. The Indicator covers scope 1 of the WRI/WBCSD GHG Protocol. Indicator EN4 measures the consumption of primary energy sources to supply the reporting organization with intermediate energy such as electricity, heating and cooling, etc.

**2. Compilation**

2.1 **Direct energy sources purchased**

Identify primary energy sources purchased by the reporting organization for its own consumption. This includes:

- Direct non-renewable energy sources including:
  - Coal;
  - Natural gas; and
- Fuel distilled from crude oil, including gasoline, diesel, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG), butane, propane, ethane, etc.
- Direct renewable energy sources including:
  - Biofuels;
  - Ethanol; and
  - Hydrogen.

Note: Biomass is excluded from direct renewable energy sources for the purpose of reporting to the WRI/WBCSD GHG Protocol. For alignment with the WRI/WBCSD GHG Protocol, direct CO₂ emissions from the combustion of biomass should be reported separately.

2.2 **Direct energy sources produced**

Identify the amount of primary energy the reporting organization acquires by producing, extracting, harvesting, collecting, or converting it from other forms of energy in joules or multiples. This includes the same energy sources listed under 2.1.

2.3 **Direct energy sources sold**

Identify the amount of primary energy exported outside the reporting boundary in joules or multiples.

2.4 Calculate total energy consumption in joules or multiples such as gigajoules (one billion joules or 10⁹ joules) using the following equation:

\[
\text{Total direct energy consumption} = \text{direct primary energy purchased} + \text{direct primary energy produced} - \text{direct primary energy sold}
\]

Refer to the following table to convert volumes of primary sources to gigajoules:
2.5 Report total direct energy consumption in joules or multiples by renewable primary source.

2.6 Report total direct energy consumption in joules or multiples by non-renewable primary source.

3. Definitions

Renewable resources

Resources capable of being replenished within a short time through ecological cycles (as opposed to resources such as minerals, metals, oil, gas, coal that do not renew in short time periods).

4. Documentation

Information can be obtained from invoices, measured (or calculated) heat/fuel accounting, estimations, defaults, etc. Amounts of joules can be taken directly or converted from invoices or delivery notes. Information about the combination of primary sources used to generate intermediate energy can be obtained from suppliers.

5. References

EN4 Indirect energy consumption by primary source

1. Relevance

The amount and primary source of energy the reporting organization uses indirectly through the purchase of electricity, heat, or steam, can indicate efforts by the organization to manage environmental impacts and reduce its contribution to climate change. The particular effect indirect energy usage has on climate change depends on the type of primary energy used to generate intermediate energy.

Intermediate energy refers to forms of energy that are produced by converting primary energy into other forms. For most organizations, electricity will be the only significant form of intermediate energy. For a small percentage of organizations, other intermediate energy products might also be important, such as steam or water provided from a district heating plant or chilled water plant, or refined fuels such as synthetic fuels, biofuels, etc.

This Indicator measures the energy required to produce and deliver purchased electricity and any other intermediate energy products (such as district heat) that involve significant energy consumption upstream from the organization’s reporting boundary. This information also enables calculations of indirect greenhouse gas emissions. It covers Scope 2 of the WRI/WBCSD GHG Protocol.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify the amount of intermediate energy purchased and consumed from sources external to the reporting organization in joules or multiples, such as gigajoules (one billion joules, or 10^9 joules). This includes:

- Intermediate energy purchased and consumed from non-renewable energy sources as listed under EN3, including:
  - Electricity;
  - Heating and Cooling;
  - Steam;
  - Nuclear energy; and
  - Other forms of imported energy.

- Intermediate energy purchased and consumed from renewable energy sources including:
  - Solar;
  - Wind;
  - Geothermal;
  - Hydro energy;
  - Biomass based intermediate energy; and
  - Hydrogen based intermediate energy.

2.2 Identify the amount of primary fuels consumed to produce intermediate energy based on the total amount of energy purchased from external suppliers (EN3 - Energy Purchased). To estimate the fuels consumed to produce purchased energy, use either:

- Fuel consumption data acquired from the electricity provider if these data are available;
- Default data for electricity and heat; or
- Estimations where default figures are not available.

2.3 Using data from 2.1, report:

- The total amount of indirect energy used by indirect non-renewable sources and indirect renewable sources in terms of intermediate energy; and
- The corresponding primary energy consumed in its production.

Note: The sum of primary energy sources (expressed in joules) used to generate intermediate energy will, depending on the primary source used, significantly exceed the amount of intermediate energy purchased (in joules) due to grid and efficiency losses when converting and transporting energy.

3. Definitions

None.
4. Documentation

Suppliers of energy and related services are the most important informational source for this Indicator. Other information can be obtained from invoices, measured (or calculated) heat/fuel accounting, estimations, defaults, etc. Besides default data drawn from the International Energy Agency (IEA), information can be obtained from the annual reports submitted by governments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These reports will detail country energy use and associated emissions for country specific defaults, etc.

5. References

- International Energy Agency’s (IAE) annual publication of Energy Balances for OECD and non-OECD countries.


ENS Energy saved due to conservation and efficiency improvements

1. Relevance

This Indicator demonstrates the results of proactive efforts to improve energy-efficiency through technological improvements of processes and other energy conservation initiatives. Improved energy efficiency can result in cost savings and can lead to competitive advantages and market differentiation. Supporting efficient energy technology has a direct impact on operational costs, and reduces the reporting organization’s future dependency on non-renewable energy sources. Efficient energy use is one key strategy in combating climate change and other environmental impacts created by the extraction and processing of energy.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify total energy saved by efforts to reduce energy use and increase energy efficiency. Reduced energy consumption from reduced production capacity or outsourcing should not be included in this Indicator.

2.2 Report the total amount of energy saved in joules or multiples, such as gigajoules (one billion joules or $10^9$ joules). Take into consideration energy saved due to:

- Process redesign;
- Conversion and retrofitting of equipment; and
- Changes in personnel behavior.

3. Definitions

Energy saved

The reduced amount of energy needed to carry out the same processes or tasks. The term does not include overall reduction in energy consumption from reduced organizational activities (e.g., partial outsourcing of production).

Conservation and efficiency improvements

Organizational or technological innovations that allow a defined process or task to be carried out at a reduced level of energy consumption. This includes process redesign, the conversion and retrofitting of equipment (e.g., energy-efficient lighting), or the elimination of unnecessary energy use due to changes in behavior.

4. Documentation

Information can be obtained from internal energy measurements and supplier information (e.g., energy related specification of new machinery, light bulbs, etc.).

5. References

None.
EN6 Initiatives to provide energy-efficient or renewable energy based products and services, and reductions in energy requirements as a result of these initiatives

1. Relevance

Energy consumption is a major contributor to climate change since the burning of fossil fuel energy sources ultimately generates carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas). Using energy more efficiently is essential to combating climate change, which is the aim of the Kyoto Protocol. Providing energy efficient products and services is an important part of product stewardship initiatives. These products and services can be a source of competitive advantage by enhancing product differentiation and reputation. Energy-efficient technologies can also reduce the cost of consumer goods. When initiatives of different organizations in the same sector are compared, it can give an indication of likely trends in the market for a product or service.

2. Compilation

2.1 Report existing initiatives to reduce the energy requirements of major products/product groups or services.

2.2 Report quantified reductions in the energy requirements of products and services achieved during the reporting period.

2.3 If use-oriented figures are employed (e.g., energy requirements of a computer), clearly report any assumptions about underlying consumption patterns or normalization factors (e.g., 10% less energy use per average working day, assuming operation for 8 hours with changing processor load). Refer to available industry standards (e.g., fuel consumption of cars for 100 km at 90 km/h).

3. Definitions

None.

4. Documentation

Information can be obtained from internal product testing/measurements, research concerning usage patterns, industry standards, etc.

5. References

- Energy efficiency standards and relevant testing procedures are available from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).
- Energy efficiency standards and relevant testing procedures are available from the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).
**EN7 Initiatives to reduce indirect energy consumption and reductions achieved**

1. **Relevance**

Indirect energy use occurs through purchasing materials and components or services such as travel, commuting, and subcontracted production. When monitored comprehensively, indirect energy use can be reduced effectively (e.g., by carefully selecting energy-efficient materials, services, or production capacities, or substituting phone or video conferences for travel).

Quantifying indirect energy use provides a basis for calculating ‘other relevant indirect greenhouse gas emissions’ as requested in EN19. Tracking and reducing indirect energy use can improve the overall life-cycle performance of products and services, and serve as part of a comprehensive design-for-environment program.

Finally, this Indicator covers energy savings achieved in the indirect energy consumption of the reporting organization’s activities.

2. **Compilation**

2.1 For this Indicator, exclude indirect energy use associated with the purchase of intermediate energy sources as reported in EN4.

2.2 Identify relevant upstream/downstream indirect energy use in the following four areas:

- Use of energy-intensive materials;
- Subcontracted production;
- Business-related travel; and
- Employee commuting.

2.3 Report initiatives to reduce indirect energy use.

2.4 Report quantitatively the extent to which indirect energy use has been reduced during the reporting period for the four areas listed in 2.2.

2.5 Indicate underlying assumptions and methodologies used to calculate other indirect energy use and indicate the source of information.

3. **Definitions**

None.

4. **Documentation**

Relevant data can be drawn from supplier information, life-cycle calculations/estimations (carried out internally or by research organizations), etc.

5. **References**

- International Energy Agency’s (IAE) annual publication of Energy Balances for OECD and non-OECD countries.
EN8 Total water withdrawal by source

1. Relevance

Reporting the total volume of water withdrawn by source contributes to an understanding of the overall scale of potential impacts and risks associated with the reporting organization’s water use. The total volume withdrawn provides an indication of the organization’s relative size and importance as a user of water, and provides a baseline figure for other calculations relating to efficiency and use.

The systematic effort to monitor and improve the efficient use of water in the reporting organization is directly linked to water consumption costs. Total water use can also indicate the level of risk posed by disruptions to water supplies or increases in the cost of water. Clean freshwater is becoming increasingly scarce, and can impact production processes that rely on large volumes of water. In regions where water sources are highly restricted, the organization’s water consumption patterns can also influence relations with other stakeholders.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify the total volume of water withdrawn from any water source that was either withdrawn directly by the reporting organization or through intermediaries such as water utilities. This includes the abstraction of cooling water.

2.2 Report the total volume of water withdrawn in cubic meters per year (m³/year) by the following sources:

- Surface water, including water from wetlands, rivers, lakes, and oceans;
- Ground water;
- Rainwater collected directly and stored by the reporting organization;
- Waste water from another organization; and
- Municipal water supplies or other water utilities.

3. Definitions

Total water withdrawal

The sum of all water drawn into the boundaries of the reporting organization from all sources (including surface water, ground water, rainwater, and municipal water supply) for any use over the course of the reporting period.

4. Documentation

Information on organizational water withdrawal can be drawn from water meters, water bills, calculations derived from other available water data or (if neither water meters nor bills or reference data exist) the organization’s own estimates.

5. References

None.
EN9 Water sources significantly affected by withdrawal of water

1. Relevance
Withdrawals from a water system can affect the environment by lowering the water table, reducing volume of water available for use, or otherwise altering the ability of an ecosystem to perform its functions. Such changes have wider impacts on the quality of life in the area, including economic consequences.

This Indicator measures the scale of impacts associated with the organization’s water use. In terms of relations with other users of the same water sources, this Indicator also enables an assessment of specific areas of risk or improvement, as well as the stability of the organization’s own water sources.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify water sources significantly affected by water withdrawal by the reporting organization. Significant withdrawals meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Withdrawals that account for an average of 5 percent or more of the annual average volume of a given water body;

- Withdrawals from water bodies that are recognized by professionals to be particularly sensitive due to their relative size, function, or status as a rare, threatened, or endangered system (or to their support of a particular endangered species of plant or animal); or

- Any withdrawal from a Ramsar-listed wetland or any other nationally or internationally proclaimed conservation area regardless of the rate of withdrawal.

Note: If the water is provided by a public or private water supplier, the original water body/source should be identified and reported.

2.2 Report the total number of significantly affected water sources by type according to the criteria above, indicating the following:

- Size of water source in cubic meters (m³);

- Whether or not the source is designated as a protected area (nationally and/or internationally); and

- Biodiversity value (e.g., species diversity and endemism, number of protected species).

3. Definitions
None.

4. Documentation
Information on the characteristics of a water source or protected area can be obtained from local or national water-related ministries or government departments, or research such as environmental impact assessments.

5. References

• IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

EN10 Percentage and total volume of water recycled and reused

1. Relevance
The rate of water reuse and recycling can be a measure of efficiency and can demonstrate the success of the organization in reducing total water withdrawals and discharges. Increased reuse and recycling can result in a reduction of water consumption, treatment, and disposal costs. The reduction of water consumption through reuse and recycling can also contribute to local, national, or regional goals for managing water supplies.

2. Compilation
2.1 This Indicator measures both water that was treated prior to reuse and water that was not treated prior to reuse. Grey water (i.e., collected rainwater and wastewater generated by household processes such as washing dishes, laundry, and bathing) is included.

2.2 Calculate the volume of recycled/reused water based on the volume of water demand satisfied by recycled/reused water rather than further withdrawals. For example, if the organization has a production cycle that requires 20 cubic meters of water per cycle, the organization withdraws 20 cubic meters of water for one production process cycle and then reuses it for an additional three cycles. The total volume of water recycled/reused for that process is 60 cubic meters.

2.3 Report the total volume of water recycled/reused by the organization in cubic meters per year (m³/year) and also as a percentage of the total water withdrawal reported under Indicator EN8.

3. Definitions
Recycling/Reuse
The act of processing used water/wastewater through another cycle before discharge to final treatment and/or discharge to the environment. In general, there are three types of water recycling/re-use:

- Wastewater recycled back in the same process or higher use of recycled water in the process cycle;
- Wastewater recycled/re-used in a different process, but within the same facility; and
- Wastewater re-used at another of the reporting organization’s facilities.

4. Documentation
Information can be obtained from water meters, water bills, or (if neither water meters nor bills exist) calculations based on a water audit or inventory, or from water retailer.

5. References
None.
**EN11 Location and size of land owned, leased, managed in, or adjacent to, protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas**

1. **Relevance**

By reporting on the potential impact on land that lies within, contains, or is adjacent to legally protected areas, as well as areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas, an organization can identify and understand certain risks associated with biodiversity. Monitoring which activities are taking place in both protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas makes it possible for the reporting organization to reduce the risks of impacts. It also makes it possible for the organization to manage impacts on biodiversity or avoid mismanagement. Failure to adequately manage such impacts may result in reputational damage, delays in obtaining planning permission, and the loss of a social license to operate.

2. **Compilation**

2.1 Identify operational sites owned, leased, managed in, located in, adjacent to, or that contain protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas. Include sites for which future operations have been formally announced.

2.2 Report the following information for each operational site identified above:

- Geographic location;
- Subsurface and/or underground land that may be owned, leased, or managed by the organization;
- Position in relation to protected area (in the area, adjacent to, or containing portions of the protected area) and high biodiversity value area outside protected area;
- Type of operation (office, manufacturing/production, or extractive);
- Size of operational site in km²;
- Biodiversity value characterized by:
  - The attribute of the protected area and high biodiversity value area outside protected area (terrestrial, freshwater, or maritime ecosystem); and
  - Listing of protected status (e.g., IUCN Protected Area Management Category, Ramsar Convention, national legislation, Natura 2000 site, etc.).

3. **Definitions**

**Protected area**

A geographically defined area that is designated, regulated, or managed to achieve specific conservation objectives.

**Areas of high biodiversity value**

Areas not subject to legal protection but recognized for important biodiversity features by a number of governmental and non-governmental organizations. These include habitats that are a priority for conservation (often defined in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans prepared under the Convention on Biological Diversity). In addition, several international conservation organizations have identified particular areas of high biodiversity value.

4. **Documentation**

Sources of information for the required data could include purchase contracts, lease contracts, or the national/regional land registry.

On the national level, public agencies responsible for environmental protection and conservation might keep information on internationally and nationally protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value. In addition, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans often include information and registers of protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value.

5. **References**

- UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- United Nations Biosphere Reserves.
- Conservation International’s Biodiversity Hotspots and Wilderness Areas.
- WWF’s Global 200 Ecoregion.
- Bird Life International’s Important Bird Areas.
- IUCN’s Centres of Plant Diversity.
**EN12 Description of significant impacts of activities, products, and services on biodiversity in protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas**

1. **Relevance**

This Indicator provides information on the significant direct and indirect impacts of the reporting organization on biodiversity in protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas. It also provides the background for understanding (and developing) an organizational strategy to mitigate these impacts. By asking for structured, qualitative information, the Indicator enables comparison across organizations and over time of the relative size, scale, and nature of impacts.

2. **Compilation**

2.1 Identify significant impacts on biodiversity associated with activities, products, and services of the reporting organization, including both direct impacts as well as indirect impacts (e.g., in the supply chain).

2.2 Report the nature of significant direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity with reference to one or more of the following:

- Construction or use of manufacturing plants, mines, and transport infrastructure;
- Pollution (introduction of substances that do not naturally occur in the habitat from point and non-point sources);
- Introduction of invasive species, pests, and pathogens;
- Reduction of species;
- Habitat conversion; and
- Changes in ecological processes outside the natural range of variation (e.g., salinity or changes in groundwater level).

2.3 Report significant direct and indirect positive and negative impacts with reference to the following:

- Species affected;
- Extent of areas impacted (this may not be limited to areas that are formally protected and should include consideration of impacts on buffer zones as well as formally designated areas of special importance or sensitivity);
- Duration of impacts; and
- Reversibility or irreversibility of the impacts.

3. **Definitions**

**Significant impact**

Impacts that may adversely affect the integrity of a geographical area/region, either directly or indirectly. This occurs by substantially changing its ecological features, structures, and functions across its whole area and over the long term. This means that the habitat, its population level, and/or the particular species that make that habitat important cannot be sustained.

On a species level, a significant impact causes a population decline and/or change in distribution so that natural recruitment (reproduction or immigration from unaffected areas) cannot return to former levels within a limited number of generations. A significant impact can also affect subsistence or commercial resource use to the degree that the well-being of users is affected over the long term.

4. **Documentation**

Information for this Indicator can be found in the reporting organization's environmental management system or other internal documentation. If available, information can also be obtained from environmental and social impact assessments and/or lifecycle assessments, and from other organizations upstream/downstream in the supply chain.

5. **References**

EN13 Habitats protected or restored

1. Relevance
A biodiversity strategy contains a combination of elements related to the prevention, management, and remediation of damage to natural habitats resulting from the organization’s activities. This Indicator measures the implementation of a specific strategy for preventing or redressing negative impacts associated with activities. Ensuring the integrity of natural habitats can enhance the reputation of the organization, the stability of its surrounding natural environment and resources, and its acceptance by surrounding communities.

2. Compilation
2.1 This Indicator refers to areas in which remediation has been completed or the area is actively protected (see Definitions). Areas in which operations are still active can be counted if they conform to the definitions of ‘restored’ or ‘protected’.

2.2 Assess the status of the area based on its condition at the close of the reporting period.

2.3 Report the size and location of all habitat protected areas and/or restored areas (in hectares), and whether the success of the restoration measure was/is approved by independent external professionals. If the area is larger than one km², report in km².

2.4 Report whether partnerships exist with third parties to protect or restore habitat areas distinct from where the organization has overseen and implemented restoration or protection measures.

3. Definitions
Area restored
Areas that were used during or affected by operational activities, and where remediation measures have either restored the environment to its original state or to a state where it is a healthy and functioning ecosystem.

Area protected
Areas that are protected from any harm during operational activities, and the environment remains in its original state with a healthy functioning ecosystem.

4. Documentation
Information on protected areas can be found in the documentation of the organization’s environmental management system, site plans, environmental and social impact assessments, or organizational policies.

Information on land restoration (i.e., requirements for land restoration) can be found in lease, rent, or purchase contracts of the land or in environmental and social impact assessments or risk registers.

5. References
None.
**EN14 Strategies, current actions, and future plans for managing impacts on biodiversity**

1. **Relevance**

   Performance against biodiversity policies, objectives, and commitments depends on having structured programs in place for managing impacts. The presence and structure of programs is particularly important when national regulations do not provide clear reference points for an organization planning its biodiversity management.

   This Indicator enables both internal and external stakeholders to analyze how well the reporting organization’s strategies, current actions, and future plans address potential impacts on biodiversity. The quality of the organization’s approach to managing impacts on biodiversity (as identified in EN11 and EN12) will affect its exposure to risks such as reputational damage, fines, or rejection of planning or operating permissions. Actions to protect or restore habitats and species are of particular relevance.

2. **Compilation**

   2.1 If national regulations have influenced the specific strategies, actions, or plans reported under this Indicator, this should be noted.

   2.2 Report the organization’s strategy for achieving its policy on biodiversity management including:

   - Integration of biodiversity considerations in analytical tools such as environmental site impact assessments;
   - Methodology for establishing risk exposure to biodiversity;
   - Setting specific targets and objectives;
   - Monitoring processes; and
   - Public reporting.

   2.3 Report actions underway to manage biodiversity risks identified in EN11 and EN12, or plans to undertake such activities in the future.

3. **Definitions**

   None.

4. **Documentation**

   Information on programs and targets can be found in management guidelines or obtained from the organization’s Environmental Management System, Environmental and Social Impact Assessments, Corporate Social Responsibility policies, or Risk Registers.

5. **References**

   None.
EN15 Number of IUCN Red List species and national conservation list species with habitats in areas affected by operations, by level of extinction risk

1. Relevance

This Indicator helps the reporting organization to identify where its activities can pose a threat to endangered plant and animal species. By identifying these threats, the organization can initiate appropriate steps to avoid harm and to prevent the extinction of species. The IUCN Red List and national conservation list species can serve as authorities on the sensitivity of habitat in areas affected by operations, and on the relative importance of these habitats from a management perspective.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify the location of habitats affected by the operations of the reporting organization that include species on the IUCN Red List and on national conservation lists.

2.2 Report the number of species in habitats identified as affected by the reporting organization, indicating one of the following levels of extinction risk:

- Critically endangered;
- Endangered;
- Vulnerable;
- Near threatened; and
- Least concern.

3. Definitions

IUCN Red List species

An inventory of the global conservation status of plant and animal species developed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).

4. Documentation

Information on the presence of species on the IUCN Red List and national conservation lists can be obtained from national/regional conservation agencies, local authorities, or environmental NGOs. For organizations operating in or adjacent to protected areas or areas of high-biodiversity value, planning studies or other permit materials may also contain information about the biodiversity within the protected areas.

5. References

- IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
EN16 **Total direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions by weight**

1. **Relevance**

Greenhouse gas emissions are the main cause of climate change and are governed by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC) and the subsequent Kyoto Protocol. As a result, different national and international regulations and incentive systems (such as trading climate certificates) aim to control the volume and reward the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

This Indicator can be used in combination with EN17 to explain targets for regulations or trading systems at international or national levels. The combination of direct and indirect emissions also provides insights into the potential cost implications of taxation or trading systems for reporting organizations.

2. **Compilation**

2.1 Different conversion methodologies are available to calculate the amount of greenhouse gas emissions per source. Indicate the standard used, and indicate the methodology associated with the data with reference to the following categories:

- Direct measurement (e.g., continuous online analyzers, etc.);
- Calculation based on site specific data (e.g., for fuel composition analysis, etc.);
- Calculation based on default data; and
- Estimations. If estimations are used due to a lack of default figures, indicate which basis figures were obtained.

Further details on the compilation of this Indicator are available in the WRI/WBCSD GHG Protocol and in the IPCC document as listed under references.

2.2 Identify direct emissions of greenhouse gases from all sources owned or controlled by the reporting organization, including:

- Generation of electricity, heat, or steam (as reported in EN3);
- Other combustion processes such as flaring;
- Physical or chemical processing;
- Transportation of materials, products, and waste;
- Venting; and
- Fugitive emissions.

Emissions from combustion processes and sources will correspond to the direct primary energy from non-renewable and renewable sources as reported in EN3. Note that the direct CO₂ emissions from the combustion of biomass shall not be included but reported separately under GHG Protocol Corporate Standard (revised edition).

2.3 Identify indirect emissions of greenhouse gases resulting from the generation of purchased electricity, heat, or steam (this corresponds with energy consumption reported under EN4).

Other indirect emissions (e.g., from organizational travel) are not included since they are accounted for in EN17.

2.4 Report total greenhouse gas emissions as the sum of direct and indirect emissions (as identified in 2.2 and 2.3) in tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.

3. **Definitions**

**Direct emissions**

Emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by the reporting organization. For example, direct emissions related to combustion would arise from burning fuel for energy within the reporting organization’s operational boundaries.

**Indirect emissions**

Emissions that result from the activities of the reporting organization but are generated at sources owned or controlled by another organization. In the context of this Indicator, indirect emissions refer to greenhouse gas emissions from the generation of electricity, heat, or steam that is imported and consumed by the reporting organization.

**Carbon dioxide equivalent**

CO₂ (Carbon Dioxide) equivalent is the measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases based on their global warming potential (GWP). The CO₂ equivalent for a gas is derived by multiplying the tonnes of the gas by the associated GWP.
4. Documentation

Emissions resulting from direct and indirect energy use can be calculated from the data reported in EN3 and EN4.

5. References


- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Climate Change 2001, Working Group I: The Scientific Basis.
EN17  Other relevant indirect greenhouse gas emissions by weight

1. Relevance

Greenhouse gas emissions are the main cause of climate change and are governed by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC) and the subsequent Kyoto Protocol. For some organizations, indirect greenhouse gas emissions are significantly greater than their direct emissions. They are also sufficiently under the influence of the organization that changes in its practices can lead to significant reductions. Measuring and demonstrating efforts to reduce indirect emissions can demonstrate leadership in combating climate change and can enhance the organization’s reputation.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from indirect energy use. Exclude indirect emissions from imported electricity, heat, or steam, as these are covered by EN16.

2.2 Additionally, identify which of the reporting organization’s activities cause indirect emissions and assess their amounts (e.g., employee commuting, business travel, etc). When deciding on the relevance of these activities, consider whether emissions of the activity:

- Are large compared to other activities generating direct emissions or energy related indirect emissions (as reported in EN16);
- Are judged to be critical by stakeholders;
- Could be substantially reduced through actions taken by the reporting organization.

2.3 Report the sum of indirect GHG emissions identified in tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.

3. Definitions

Indirect emissions

Emissions that are consequences of the activities of the reporting organization but are generated at sources owned or controlled by another organization. In the context of this Indicator, indirect emissions do not include those generated from imported electricity, heat, or steam consumed by the reporting organization (e.g., transport, packaging).

Carbon dioxide equivalent

CO₂ (Carbon Dioxide) equivalent is the measure used to compare emissions from various greenhouse gases based on their global warming potential (GWP). The CO₂ equivalent for a gas is derived by multiplying the tonnes of the gas by the associated GWP.

4. Documentation

Information can be obtained from external suppliers of products and services. For certain types of indirect emissions such as business travel, the organization may need to combine its own records with data from external sources to arrive at an estimate.

5. References

- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Climate Change 2001, Working Group I: The Scientific Basis.
**EN18 Initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reductions achieved**

1. **Relevance**

Greenhouse gas emissions are the main cause of climate change and are governed by the United Nations agreed on the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC) and the subsequent Kyoto Protocol. As a result, different national and international regulations and incentive systems (such as trading climate certificates) aim to control the volume and reward the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. When monitored comprehensively, emissions can be reduced effectively (e.g., by carefully selecting energy-efficient materials, services, or production capacities).

This Indicator can be used in combination with EN16 and EN17 to set and monitor reduction targets with reference to regulations or trading systems at international or national levels.

Tracking and reducing greenhouse gas emissions can improve the overall life cycle performance of activities, products and services, and serve as part of a comprehensive design-for-environment program.

2. **Compilation**

2.1 Identify emissions reductions from all sources owned or controlled by the reporting organization as reported under EN16 and resulting from indirect energy use and activities of the reporting organization as reported under EN17. Distinguish between mandatory and voluntary emissions reductions.

2.2 Report initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, include the areas where the initiatives were implemented.

2.3 Report quantitatively the extent greenhouse gas emissions reductions achieved during the reporting period as a direct result of the initiative(s) in tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.

3. **Definitions**

None.

4. **Documentation**

Information can be drawn from data reported under EN16 and EN17, from emissions measurements, calculated from accounting data and defaults, or from estimates. Information on initiatives can likely be found in records maintained by departments responsible for environmental management.

5. **References**


- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Climate Change 2001, Working Group I: The Scientific Basis.
**EN19 Emissions of ozone-depleting substances by weight**

### 1. Relevance

The ozone layer (O₃) filters out most of the sun’s biologically harmful ultraviolet (UV-B) radiation. The Montreal Protocol regulates the phase-out of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) internationally. Measuring ODS emissions enables an assessment of how well the reporting organization complies with current and future legislation, and its likely risks in this area. This is particularly relevant for organizations whose processes, products, and services have used ODS and must transition to new technologies in order to comply with phase-out commitments. The reporting organization’s results on ODS phase-out can help indicate its level of technology leadership and competitive position in markets for products and services affected by ODS rules.

### 2. Compilation

2.1 Ozone-depleting substances contained or emitted from products during their usage and disposal are not covered by this Indicator.

2.2 Emissions of substances covered in Annexes A, B, C, and E of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer are included.

2.3 Identify emissions of ozone-depleting substances using the following formulas:

\[
\text{Emissions} = \text{Production} + \text{Imports} - \text{Exports of Substances}
\]

\[
\text{Production} = \text{Substances Produced} - \text{Substances Destroyed by Technology} - \text{Substances used entirely as feedstock in the manufacture of other chemicals}
\]

*Note: ODS that is recycled and reused is not considered production.*

2.4 Report the emissions of specific ozone-depleting substances in tonnes and tonnes of CFC-11 equivalent.

### 3. Definitions

**Ozone-depleting substance (ODS)**

Any substance with an ozone depletion potential (ODP) greater than 0 that can deplete the stratospheric ozone layer. Most ozone-depleting substances are controlled under the Montreal Protocol and its amendments, and include CFCs, HCFCs, halons, and methyl bromide.

**CFC-11 equivalent**

CFC-11 is a measure used to compare various substances based on their relative ozone depletion potential. The reference level of 1 is the potential of CFC-11 and CFC-12 to cause ozone depletion.

### 4. Documentation

Information can be derived from internal measurements and accounting.

### 5. References

- The Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer.
EN20  NO$_x$, SO$_x$, and other significant air emissions by type and weight

1. Relevance

This Indicator measures the scale of the organization’s air emissions and can demonstrate the relative size and importance of these emissions compared to other organizations.

Air pollutants have adverse effects on habitats and human and animal health. Deterioration of air quality, acidification, forest degradation, as well as public health concerns has led to local and international regulations to control air emissions. Reductions in regulated pollutants lead to improved health conditions for workers and neighboring communities. Reductions or demonstrated performance beyond compliance can enhance relations with affected communities and workers, and the ability to maintain or expand operations. In regions with emission caps, the volume of emissions also has direct cost implications for the organization.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify significant air emissions and calculate their weight.

2.2 Since calculating certain air emissions such as NOx requires complex quantification efforts, indicate the methodology used for calculations, selecting one of the following approaches:

- Direct measurement of emissions (e.g., online analyzers, etc.);
- Calculation based on site specific data;
- Calculation based on default data; or
- Estimation (if estimations are used due to a lack of default figures, indicate on what basis figures were obtained).

2.3 Report the weight of significant air emissions (in kilograms or multiples such as tonnes) for each of the following categories:

- NO$_x$;
- SO$_x$;
- Persistent organic pollutants (POP);
- Volatile organic compounds (VOC);
- Hazardous air pollutants (HAP);
- Stack and fugitive emissions;
- Particulate matter (PM); or
- Other standard categories of air emissions identified in regulations.

3. Definitions

Significant air emissions

Air emissions that are regulated under international conventions and/or national laws or regulations, including those listed on environmental permits for the reporting organization’s operations.

4. Documentation

Information can be drawn from emissions measurements, calculated from accounting data and defaults, or estimated.

5. References

- Gothenburg Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution to abate acidification, eutrophication, and ground-level ozone.
EN21 Total water discharge by quality and destination

1. Relevance

The amount and quality of the water discharged by the reporting organization is directly linked to ecological impact and operational costs. By progressively improving the quality of discharged water and/or reducing volumes, the reporting organization has the potential to reduce its impact on the surrounding environment. Unmanaged discharge of effluents with a high chemical or nutrient load (principally nitrogen, phosphorous, or potassium) can have a significant impact on receiving waters. This, in turn, can affect the quality of the water supply available to the organization and its relationship with communities and other water users.

Discharging effluents or process water to a facility for treatment not only reduces pollution levels, but can also lower the organization’s financial costs and the risk of regulatory action for non-compliance with environmental regulation. All of this enhances the reporting organization’s social license to operate.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify planned and unplanned water discharges (excluding collected rainwater and domestic sewage) by destination and indicate how it is treated. If the reporting organization does not have a meter to measure water discharges, this figure needs to be estimated by subtracting the approximate volume consumed on-site from the volume withdrawn as reported in EN8.

2.2 Report the total volume of planned and unplanned water discharges in cubic meters per year (m³/year) by:

- Destination;
- Treatment method; and
- Whether it was reused by another organization.

2.3 Reporting organizations that discharge effluents or process water should report water quality in terms of total volumes of effluent using standard effluent parameters such as Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), Total Suspended Solids (TSS), etc. The specific choice of quality parameters will vary depending on the organization’s products/services/operations. The selection of parameters should be consistent with those used in the organization’s sector.

Clean water refers to water that meets national regulations for freshwater quality when leaving the boundaries of the reporting organization. This can be either freshwater whose quality has not been affected by the organization’s use, or wastewater that is treated to meet freshwater standards prior to discharge.

3. Definitions

Total water discharge

The sum of water effluents discharged over the course of the reporting period to subsurface waters, surface waters, sewers that lead to rivers, oceans, lakes, wetlands, treatment facilities, and ground water either through:

- A defined discharge point (point source discharge);
- Over land in a dispersed or undefined manner (non-point source discharge); or
- Wastewater removed from the reporting organization via truck. Discharge of collected rainwater and domestic sewage is not regarded as water discharge.

4. Documentation

Information sources about the volume of water discharged by the reporting organization include flow meters (point-source discharges or when discharges are released through a pipe) and regulatory permits.

5. References

**EN22 Total weight of waste by type and disposal method**

**1. Relevance**

Data on waste generation figures over several years can indicate the level of progress the organization has made toward waste reduction efforts. It can also indicate potential improvements in process efficiency and productivity. From a financial perspective, the reduction of waste contributes directly to lower costs for materials, processing, and disposal.

Information about the disposal destination reveals the extent to which a reporting organization has managed the balance between disposal options and uneven environmental impacts. For example, land filling and recycling create very different types of environmental impacts and residual effects. Most waste minimization strategies emphasize prioritizing options for recovery, reuse, or recycling over other disposal options, wherever possible.

**2. Compilation**

2.1 Identify the amount of waste created by the organization’s operations, by:

- Hazardous waste (as defined by national legislation at the point of generation); and
- Non-hazardous waste (all other forms of solid or liquid waste excluding wastewater).

2.2 If no weight data are available, estimate the weight using available information on waste density and volume collected, mass balances, or similar information.

2.3 Report the total amount of waste in tonnes by type as identified in 2.1 for each of the following disposal methods:

- Composting;
- Reuse;
- Recycling;
- Recovery;
- Incineration (or use as fuel);
- Landfill;
- Deep well injection;
- On-site storage; and
- Other (to be specified by the reporting organization).

2.4 Report how the method of disposal has been determined:

- Disposed directly by the reporting organization or otherwise directly confirmed;
- Information provided by the waste disposal contractor; or
- Organizational defaults of the waste disposal contractor.

**3. Definitions**

**Disposal method**

The method by which waste is treated or disposed, including composting, reuse, recycling, recovery, incineration, landfill, deep well injection, and on-site storage.

**4. Documentation**

Potential information sources include external waste audits by providers of disposal services or waste balance sheets from these providers, as well as internal billing and accounting systems, and the procurement or supply management department.

**5. References**

## EN23 Total number and volume of significant spills

### 1. Relevance
Spills of chemicals, oils, and fuels can have significant negative impacts on the surrounding environment, potentially affecting soil, water, air, biodiversity, and human health. The systematic effort to avoid spills of hazardous materials is directly linked to the organization's compliance with regulations, its financial risk from the loss of raw materials, remediation costs, the risk of regulatory action, as well as damage to reputation. This Indicator also serves as an indirect measure for evaluating the monitoring skills of the organization.

### 2. Compilation

#### 2.1 Identify all recorded significant spills and the volume of these spills.

#### 2.2 Report the total number and total volume of recorded significant spills.

#### 2.3 For spills that were reported in the organization's financial statement, report the additional following information for each such spill:

- Location of spill;
- Volume of spill; and
- Material of spill, categorized by:
  - Oil spills (soil or water surfaces);
  - Fuel spills (soil or water surfaces);
  - Spills of wastes (soil or water surfaces);
  - Spills of chemicals (mostly soil or water surfaces); and
  - Other.

#### 2.4 Report the impacts of significant spills.

### 3. Definitions

**Spill**
Accidental release of a hazardous substance that can affect human health, land, vegetation, water bodies, and ground water.

**Significant spill**
All spills that are included in the reporting organization's financial statement (e.g., due to resulting liabilities) or recorded as a spill by the reporting organization.

### 4. Documentation
Potential information sources regarding spills of fuel, oils, and chemicals can be internal records within an existing environmental management system as well as official statements made to/by the relevant environmental regulatory agency.

### 5. References
None.
EN24 Weight of transported, imported, exported, or treated waste deemed hazardous under the terms of the Basel Convention Annex I, II, III, and VIII, and percentage of transported waste shipped internationally

1. Relevance
Hazardous waste management is a key area of concern for many stakeholders. Improper transport of dangerous wastes, particularly to countries that lack the infrastructure and national regulations to handle such waste, can pose harm to both human health and the environment. In addition, poor management of hazardous waste creates liabilities associated with non-compliance with national and international regulations, as well as potential damage to reputation.

2. Compilation
2.1 Identify hazardous wastes transported by or on behalf of the reporting organization within the reporting period by destination.

2.2 Identify the total weight of transported hazardous waste using the following equation:

\[
\text{Total weight of hazardous waste transported by destination} = \text{Weight of hazardous waste transported to the reporting organization by destination from external sources/suppliers not owned by the reporting organization} + \text{Weight of hazardous waste transported from the reporting organization by destination to external sources/suppliers not owned by the reporting organization} + \text{Weight of hazardous waste transported nationally and/or internationally by destination between locations owned, leased, or managed by the reporting organization.}
\]

2.3 Identify the total weight of hazardous waste transported across international borders and which enters the boundaries of the reporting organization, by destination. Waste transported between different locations of the organization is not counted as imported.

2.4 Identify the proportion of the total amount of transported hazardous waste by destination that is transported from the reporting organization to locations abroad. Include all wastes that leave the boundaries of the reporting organization to cross international borders, excluding transportation between different locations of the reporting organization.

2.5 Identify the portion of the total amount of transported and exported waste by destination that the organization has treated.

2.6 Identify the portion of the total amount of waste by destination that is treated by external sources/suppliers, that has been transported, exported, or imported by the organization.

2.7 Convert volumes to an estimate of weight with a brief explanation of the methodology used.

2.8 Report the following information in kilograms or tonnes:
- Total weight of hazardous waste transported;
- Total weight of imported hazardous waste;
- Total weight of exported hazardous waste; and
- Total weight of treated hazardous waste.

3. Definitions
None.

4. Documentation
Potential information sources include billing data from logistic or disposal contractors, accounting systems, as well as the procurement or supply management department. Some countries require documentation to accompany hazardous waste shipments that would supply all relevant data for this Indicator.

5. References
EN25 Identity, size, protected status, and biodiversity value of water bodies and related habitats significantly affected by the reporting organization’s discharges of water and runoff

1. Relevance

This Indicator is a qualitative counterpart to quantitative Indicators of water discharge that helps to describe the impact of these discharges. Discharges and runoff affecting aquatic habitats can have a significant impact on the availability of water resources. Identifying water bodies affected by discharges provides an opportunity to identify activities in regions of significant concern, or areas where the reporting organization may face specific risks due to community concerns, limited water resources, etc.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify water bodies significantly affected by the reporting organization’s water discharges that meet one of more of the following criteria:

- Discharges account for an average of 5% or more of the annual average volume of the water body;

- Discharges that, on the advice of appropriate professionals (e.g., municipal authorities), are known to have or are highly likely to have significant impacts on the water body and associated habitats;

- Discharges to water bodies that are recognized by professionals to be particularly sensitive due to their relative size, function, or status as a rare, threatened, or endangered system (or support a particular endangered species of plant or animal); or

- Any discharge to a Ramsar-listed wetland or any other nationally or internationally proclaimed conservation area regardless of the rate of discharge.

2.2 Report water bodies significantly affected by water discharges based on the criteria above, adding information on:

- Size of water body in cubic meters (m³);

- Whether the source is designated as a protected area (nationally and/or internationally); and

- Biodiversity value (e.g., number of protected species).

3. Definitions

None.

4. Documentation

Information on the status of a water source or protected area can be obtained from local or national water-related ministries or government departments, or through research initiated by the organization or other institutions, such as environmental impact studies.

5. References

- IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
EN26 Initiatives to mitigate environmental impacts of activities, products and services, and extent of impact mitigation

1. Relevance

For some sectors, the impacts of activities, products and services during their use phase (e.g., water consumption of a washing machine) and at the end of their useful life can be equal to or greater in significance than the production phase. The significance of such impacts is determined by both customer behavior and general activity/product/service design. Organizations are expected to take more proactive approaches to assessing and improving the environmental impacts of their products and services.

This measure assesses the actions the reporting organization has taken to reduce the negative environmental impacts and enhance the positive impacts of its product and service design and delivery. Design for environment can help identify new business opportunities, differentiate activities, products and services, and stimulate innovation in technology. Integrating environmental considerations into product and service design can also decrease the risk of incompatibility with future environmental legislation, as well as enhance reputation.

2. Compilation

2.1 In this Indicator, the following impacts are excluded since they are covered in other Environmental Indicators:

- Reclaiming of products (EN27); and
- Impacts on biodiversity (EN12).

2.2 Report initiatives in the reporting period to mitigate the most significant environmental impacts of products/service groups in relation to:

- Materials use (e.g., use of non-renewable, energy-intensive, toxic materials);
- Water use (e.g., volumes used during production and/or use);
- Emissions (e.g., GHG, toxic, ozone-depleting emissions);
- Effluents (e.g., quality of water used during production and/or use);
- Noise; and
- Waste (e.g., non-reclaimable, toxic materials/compounds).

2.3 Report quantitatively the extent to which environmental impacts of activities, products and services have been mitigated during the reporting period. If use-oriented figures are employed (e.g., water use of washing machine), clearly indicate the underlying assumptions regarding consumption patterns or normalization factors (e.g., 10% less water use per 5 kg of laundry).

3. Definitions

None.

4. Documentation

Information can be drawn from product Lifecycle Assessments (LCA) or documents related to product design, development, and testing.

5. References

None.
EN27 Percentage of products sold and their packaging materials that are reclaimed by category

1. Relevance

The disposal of products and packaging materials at the end of a use phase is a steadily growing environmental challenge. Establishing effective recycling and reuse systems to close product cycles can contribute significantly to increased material and resource efficiency. It also mitigates problems and costs related to disposal.

This Indicator provides insight into the extent to which the reporting organization’s products, components, or materials are collected and successfully converted into useful materials for new production processes. It also provides insight into the degree to which the organization has designed products and packages capable of being recycled or reused. This measure can be a particular source of competitive differentiation in sectors facing formal requirements to recycle products and their packaging materials.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify the amount of products and their packaging materials reclaimed (i.e., recycled or reused) at the end of their useful life within the reporting period. Rejects and recalls of products should not be counted. Recycling or reuse of packaging should also be reported separately.

2.2 Report the percentage of reclaimed products and their packaging materials for each category of products (i.e., a group of related products sharing a common, managed set of features that satisfy the specific needs of a selected market) using the following formula:

\[
\text{% of reclaimed products} = \frac{\text{products and their packaging materials reclaimed within the reporting period}}{\text{products sold within the reporting period}} \times 100
\]

2.3 Given potential variations in data sources, report how the data for this Indicator has been collected (e.g., data is gathered from an internal collection system or data is provided by external collection systems reclaiming products on behalf of the organization).

3. Definitions

Reclaimed

Refers to collecting, reusing, or recycling products and their packaging materials at the end of their useful life. Collection and treatment can be carried out by the manufacturer of the product or by a contractor. This refers to products and their packaging materials that are:

- Collected by or on behalf of the reporting organization;
- Separated into raw materials (e.g., steel, glass, paper, some kinds of plastic, etc.) or components; and
- Used by the reporting organization or other users.

4. Documentation

None.

5. References

None.
EN28 Monetary value of significant fines and total number of non-monetary sanctions for non-compliance with environmental laws and regulations

1. Relevance
The level of non-compliance within the organization helps indicate the ability of management to ensure that operations conform to certain performance parameters. From an economic perspective, ensuring compliance helps to reduce financial risks that occur either directly through fines or indirectly through impacts on reputation. In some circumstances, non-compliance can lead to clean-up obligations or other costly environmental liabilities. The strength of the organization's compliance record can also affect its ability to expand operations or gain permits.

2. Compilation
2.1 Identify administrative or judicial sanctions for failure to comply with environmental laws and regulations, including:

- International declarations/conventions/treaties, and national, sub-national, regional, and local regulations. Include non-compliances related to spills as disclosed under EN23 that meet the criteria for EN28;

- Voluntary environmental agreements with regulating authorities that are considered binding and developed as a substitute for implementing new regulations. In certain jurisdictions, such agreements are referred to as 'covenants'; and

- Cases brought against the organization through the use of international dispute mechanisms or national dispute mechanisms supervised by government authorities.

2.2 Report significant fines and non-monetary sanctions in terms of:

- Total monetary value of significant fines;

- Number of non-monetary sanctions; and

- Cases brought through dispute resolution mechanisms.

2.3 Where reporting organizations have not identified any non-compliance with laws or regulations, a brief statement to this fact is sufficient.

3. Definitions
Environmental laws and regulations
Refers to regulations related to all types of environmental issues (i.e., emissions, effluents, and waste, as well as material use, energy, water, and biodiversity) applicable to the reporting organization. This includes binding voluntary agreements that are made with regulatory authorities and developed as a substitute for implementing a new regulation. Voluntary agreements can be applicable if the reporting organization directly joins the agreement or if public agencies make the agreement applicable to organizations in their territory through legislation or regulation.

4. Documentation
Data sources include audit results or regulatory tracking systems operated by the legal department. Information regarding monetary fines can be found in accounting departments.

5. References
None.
EN29 Significant environmental impacts of transporting products and other goods and materials used for the organization’s operations, and transporting members of the workforce

1. Relevance

The environmental impacts of transportation systems have a wide reach, from global warming to local smog and noise. For some companies, particularly those with extensive supply and distribution networks, environmental impacts associated with logistics can represent a major part of their environmental footprint. Assessing the impacts of transporting products, goods, and materials for logistical purposes, and transporting members of the organization’s workforce, is part of a comprehensive approach to planning environmental management strategies.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify the significant environmental impacts of the modes of transportation used by the organization, including:

- Energy use (e.g., oil, kerosene, fuel, electricity);
- Emissions (e.g., greenhouse gas emissions, ozone-depleting substances, NOx, SOx, and other air emissions);
- Effluents (e.g., different kinds of chemicals);
- Waste (e.g., different types of packaging material);
- Noise; and
- Spills (e.g., spills of chemicals, oils, and fuels).

2.2 Report the significant environmental impacts of transportation used for logistical purposes and for transportation of members of the organization’s workforce. Where quantitative data is not stated in the report, disclose the reason.

2.3 Indicate the criteria and methodology used to determine which environmental impacts are significant.

2.4 Report how the environmental impacts of transporting products, members of the organization’s workforce, and other goods and materials are mitigated.

3. Definitions

Transportation

The act of transferring resources and goods from one location to another (between suppliers, production plants, warehouses, and the customer) using different modes of transport, including passenger transportation (e.g., employee commuting and business traveling).

Logistical purposes

The forward or reverse flow and storage of goods and services between the point of origin and the point of consumption.

Transportation of the members of the organization’s workforce

Transportation used for commuting to work by members of the workforce or travel for business purposes including air, train, bus, and other forms of motorized and non-motorized travel.

4. Documentation

Potential sources of data include invoices from logistical service providers and suppliers, reports from the logistics department, records of vehicle usage and maintenance, and monitoring/measurement conducted by, for example, the environment department.

5. References

EN30 **Total environmental protection expenditures and investments by type**

1. **Relevance**

Measuring environmental mitigation and protection expenditures allows organizations to assess the efficiency of their environmental initiatives. It also provides valuable input for internal cost-benefit analyses. Data on environmental performance measured against environmental mitigation and protection expenditures offers insights into how effectively the organization uses resources to improve performance. When tracked and analyzed in a comprehensive fashion over time, this expenditures data allows the reporting organization to judge the value of complex organizational or technological investments for improving environmental performance.

It is possible to establish a full environmental management accounting system within an organization that tracks multiple categories of information. This Indicator focuses on waste disposal, emissions treatment, remediation costs, as well as prevention and environmental management costs.

2. **Compilation**

2.1 The compilation of the expenditures in this Indicator should exclude the following categories as defined in the IFAC ‘International Guidance Document on Environmental Management Accounting’ document:

- Costs of non-product output; and
- Fines for non-compliance with environmental regulation.

2.2 Identify waste disposal, emissions treatment, and remediation costs based on expenditures related to the following items:

- Treatment and disposal of waste;
- Treatment of emissions (e.g., expenditures for filters, agents);
- Expenditures for the purchase and use of emissions certificates;
- Depreciation of related equipment, maintenance, and operating material and services, and related personnel costs;
- Insurance for environmental liability; and
- Clean-up costs, including costs for remediation of spills as reported in EN23.

2.3 Identify prevention and environmental management costs based on expenditures related to the following items:

- Personnel employed for education and training;
- External services for environmental management;
- External certification of management systems;
- Personnel for general environmental management activities;
- Research and development;
- Extra expenditures to install cleaner technologies (e.g., additional cost beyond standard technologies);
- Extra expenditures on green purchases; and
- Other environmental management costs.

2.4 Report total environmental protection expenditures broken down by:

- Waste disposal, emissions treatment, and remediation costs; and
- Prevention and environmental management costs.

3. **Definitions**

**Environmental protection expenditures**

All expenditures on environmental protection by the reporting organization, or on its behalf, to prevent, reduce, control, and document environmental aspects, impacts, and hazards. It also includes disposal, treatment, sanitation, and clean-up expenditure.

4. **Documentation**

Potential information sources include billing and accounting systems (e.g., Environmental Management Accounting) as well as procurement, human resource, and legal departments.
5. References


Indicator Protocols Set
Labor Practices and Decent Work (LA)
Labor Practices & Decent Work

Performance Indicators

Aspect: Employment

LA1 Total workforce (including volunteers), by employment type, employment contract, and region.

See Sector-Specific Commentary in Protocol.

LA2 Total number and rate of employee turnover by age group, gender, and region.

LA3 Benefits provided to full-time employees that are not provided to temporary or part-time employees, by major operations.

Aspect: Labor/Management Relations

NG09 Mechanisms for workforce feedback and complaints, and their resolution.

LA4 Percentage of employees covered by collective bargaining agreements.

LA5 Minimum notice period(s) regarding significant operational changes, including whether it is specified in collective agreements.

Aspect: Occupational Health and Safety

LA6 Percentage of total workforce represented in formal joint management-worker health and safety committees that help monitor and advise on occupational health and safety programs.

LA7 Rates of injury, occupational diseases, lost days, and absenteeism, and total number of work-related fatalities by region.

See Sector-Specific Commentary in Protocol.

Aspect: Training and Education

LA8 Education, training, counseling, prevention, and risk-control programs in place to assist workforce members, their families, or community members regarding serious diseases.

LA9 Health and safety topics covered in formal agreements with trade unions.

See Sector-Specific Commentary in Protocol.

LA10 Average hours of training per year per employee by employee category.

LA11 Programs for skills management and lifelong learning that support the continued employability of employees and assist them in managing career endings.

LA12 Percentage of employees receiving regular performance and career development reviews.

Aspect: Diversity and Equal Opportunity

LA13 Composition of governance bodies and breakdown of employees per category according to gender, age group, minority group membership, and other indicators of diversity.

LA14 Ratio of basic salary of men to women by employee category.
Relevance
The ILO Decent Work Agenda is framed within the context of fair globalization, which aims to achieve both economic growth and equity through a combination of social and economic goals. The Agenda has four elements:

- Employment;
- Dialogue;
- Rights; and
- Protection.

The structure of the Labor Indicators is broadly based on the concept of decent work. The set begins with disclosures on the scope and diversity of the reporting organization’s workforce, emphasizing aspects of gender and age distribution.

The approach to dialogue between the organization and its employees, and the degree to which employees are organized in representative bodies are covered by Indicators LA4 (which complements Indicator HR5 on Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining) and LA5.

The physical protection and well-being of people at work is covered by Occupational Health and Safety Indicators (LA6, LA7, LA8, LA9), which address both the scope of programs as well as statistical performance on health and safety.

The scope of employee benefits and contributions toward a broad social goal of diversity and equal treatment is addressed by LA14 (Pay Equity), LA13 (Diversity) and LA3 (Benefits). Indicators in the Economics category also provide relevant information. The support organizations provide to employees to enhance personal skills and potential (which also improves the organization’s human capital) is represented in Indicators LA10, LA11, and LA12.

Definitions
Total workforce
The total number of persons working for the reporting organization at the end of the reporting period (i.e., the sum of all employees and supervised workers as defined above).

Worker
Generic term for any person performing work, regardless of the contractual relationship.

Employee
An individual who is, according to national law or practices, recognized as an employee of the reporting organization.

Supervised worker
An individual who performs regular work on-site for, or on behalf of, the reporting organization but is not recognized as an employee under national law or practice.

Independent contractor
An individual legally recognized as being self-employed.

Collective bargaining agreements
There are two types of collective bargaining agreements, aimed either at employers or workers. Those aimed at employers are agreements in writing regarding working conditions and terms of employment concluded between an employer, a group of employers, or one or more employers’ organizations. Those aimed at workers are agreements between one or more representative workers’ organizations, or, in the absence of such organizations, the representatives of the workers duly elected and authorized by them in accordance with national laws and regulations.

Employee categories
General breakdown of employees based on the function or department within the organization (e.g., senior management, middle management, professional, technical, administrative, production, maintenance, etc.) derived from an organization’s own human resources system.

General References
- ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, 1998.
- ILO Decent Work Agenda, 1999.
**LA1 Total workforce, including volunteers, by employment type, employment contract, and region**

1. **Relevance**

The size of a workforce provides insight into the scale of impacts created by labor issues. Breaking down the workforce, by type including volunteers, by employment type, employment contract, and region (region refers to ‘country’ or ‘geographical area’) demonstrates how the organization structures its human resources to implement its overall strategy. It also provides insight into the organization’s business model, and offers an indication of job stability and the level of benefits the organization offers. As a basis for calculations in several other Indicators, the size of the workforce is a standard normalizing factor for many integrated Indicators. A rise or fall in net employment, evidenced by data reported over the course of three or more years, is an important element of the organization’s contribution to the overall economic development and sustainability of the workforce.¹

2. **Compilation**

2.1 Identify the total workforce (employees and supervised workers) working for the reporting organization at the end of the reporting period. Supply chain workers are not included in this Indicator.

2.2 Identify the contract type and full-time and part-time status of employees based on the definitions under the national laws of the country where they are based.

2.* Identify the different categories of volunteers by frequency (e.g., full-time, part-time, occasionally mobilized) and function (e.g., campaigning, supporting regular operational procedures, emergency relief work, etc.).

For the purposes of this indicator, volunteers should be classified as:

- Full-time: volunteers who work a minimum of 30 hours per week;
- Part-time: volunteers who work less than 30 hours per week; and
- Occasionally mobilized: volunteers activated for specific tasks on a non regular basis.

Function refers to the variety of different activities undertaken by volunteers to support the work of an organization (e.g., campaigning, outreach, supporting regular operational procedures, emergency relief work, etc.).

2.3 Combine country statistics to calculate global statistics and disregard differences in legal definitions. Although the definitions of what constitutes types of contract and a full-time or part-time employment relationship may vary between countries, the global figure will still reflect the relationships under law.

2.4 Report the total workforce broken down by employees and supervised workers.

2.5 If a substantial portion of the organization’s work is performed by workers who are legally recognized as self-employed, or by individuals other than employees or supervised workers, this should be reported.

2.6 Report the total number of employees broken down by type of employment contract.

2.7 Report the total number of permanent employees broken down by employment type.

2.8 Report the total workforce broken down by region, using a geographic breakdown based on the scale of the organization’s operations.

2.9 If applicable, explain any significant seasonal variations in employment numbers (e.g., in the tourism or agricultural industries).

2.10 Report total of number of volunteers by type.

3. **Definitions**

**Employment types**

Full time: A ‘full-time employee’ is defined according to national legislation and practice regarding working time (e.g., national legislation defines that ‘full-time’ means a minimum of nine months per year and a minimum of 30 hours per week).

Part-time: A ‘part-time employee’ is an employee whose working hours per week, month, or year are less than ‘full time’ as defined above.

¹ See GRI Guidelines on expectations regarding reporting of multiple years’ data.
Employment Contract

An employment contract as recognized under national law or practice that may be written, verbal, or implicit (i.e., when all the characteristics of employment are present but without a written or witnessed verbal contract).

Indefinite or Permanent Contract:
A permanent contract of employment is a contract with an employee for full-time or part-time work for an indeterminate period.

Fixed Term or Temporary Contract:
A fixed term contract is a contract of employment as defined above that ends when a specific time period expires, or when a specific task that has a time estimate attached is completed.

A temporary contract of employment is of limited duration and terminated by a specific event, including the end of a project or work phase, return of replaced personnel, etc.

4. Documentation
Payroll information available at the national or site level should provide data for this Indicator.

5. References

• ILO: International Classification of Status in Employment.

• ILO: Key Indicators of the Labour Market.

• ILO: LABORSTA Internet Indicators.

• ILO: Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work National volunteer codes of conduct.

• United Nations: World Macro Regions and Components.
LA2 Total number and rate of employee turnover by age group, gender, and region

1. Relevance

A high turnover rate can indicate levels of uncertainty and dissatisfaction among employees, or may signal a fundamental change in the structure of the organization’s core operations. An uneven pattern of turnover by age or gender can indicate incompatibility or potential inequity in the workplace. Turnover results in changes to the human and intellectual capital of the organization and can impact productivity. Turnover has direct cost implications either in terms of reduced payroll or greater expenses for recruitment of workers. Employment net creation can be estimated using the data reported under Indicator LA1.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify the total number of employees leaving employment during the reporting period.

2.2 Report the total number and rate of employees leaving employment during the reporting period, broken down by gender, age group (e.g., <30; 30-50; >50), and region.

Rates should be calculated using the total employee numbers at the end of the reporting period.

3. Definitions

Turnover

Number of employees who leave the organization voluntarily or due to dismissal, retirement, or death in service.

4. Documentation

Potential sources of information include payroll information available at the national or site level. Operational plans and restatements of the organization’s key strategic targets may provide explanations for large variations in this figure.

5. References

None.
LA3 Benefits provided to full-time employees that are not provided to temporary or part-time employees, by major operations

1. Relevance

Data reported under this Indicator provides a measure of the organization’s investment in human resources and the minimum benefits it offers its full-time employees. The quality of benefits for full-time staff is a key factor in retaining employees. The Indicator also offers an indication of the relative investment in different parts of the workforce.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify benefits offered to all employees.

2.2 Report which of the following benefits are standard for full-time employees of the organization but are not provided to temporary or part-time employees, by major operations:

• Life insurance;
• Health care;
• Disability/invalidity coverage;
• Maternity/paternity leave;
• Retirement provision;
• Stock ownership; and
• Others.

2.3 Standard benefits refer to those typically offered to at least the majority of full-time employees. This should not be interpreted as being offered to every single full-time employee of the organization. The intention of the Indicator is to disclose what full-time employees can reasonably expect.

3. Definitions

Benefits

This refers to either direct benefit provided in the form of financial contributions, care paid for by the reporting organization, or the reimbursement of expenses borne by the employee. Redundancy payments over and above legal minimums, lay-off pay, extra employment injury benefit, survivors’ benefits, and extra paid holiday entitlements could also be included under this Indicator. In-kind benefits such as provision of sports or child day care facilities, free meals during working time, and similar general employee welfare programs are excluded from this Indicator.

4. Documentation

Potential sources of information include local or central collective agreements, which may provide examples of benefits paid beyond legal minimums. Other reference tools may include benefits summaries, employee orientation/commencement materials, and employee contracts.

5. References

• ILO Convention 130, ‘Medical Care and Sickness Benefits Convention’, 1969.
• OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, Revision 2000.
NGO9 Mechanisms for workforce feedback and complaints, and their resolution

1. Relevance

Whilst membership of trades unions tends to be low in the NGO sector, freedom of association is a human right, as defined by international declarations and conventions, particularly ILO Core Conventions 87 and 88. In the absence of formal trade unions and collective bargaining agreements, staff and volunteer complaints mechanisms are important procedures for NGOs to demonstrate their commitment to providing a means for the workforce (employees and volunteers) to voice their grievances to management and have formal recourse to address issues with regards to labor standards and working conditions as well as broader human resources policies.

Disclosures on this indicator will better allow internal and external stakeholders of NGOs to assess the working conditions of an organization in the absence of organized labor representation.

2. Compilation

2.1 This indicator only refers to internal feedback and complaints mechanisms. Mechanisms for external stakeholders are covered in the Program Effectiveness section.

2.2 Refer to G3 disclosure 4.4 for reporting on employee feedback mechanisms to provide recommendations to the highest governance bodies in organizations where there is a form of organized labor.

2.3 Identify the workforce feedback and complaint mechanisms. Examples may include:

- Anonymous help line; and
- Staff committees with representational status to the Human Resources Department/senior levels of governing body.

2.4 Report the key components of the feedback and complaints mechanism, and their resolution.

3. Definitions

None.

4. Documentation

Potential sources of information could be policies and procedures and complaints register in Human Resources Department.

5. References

None.
LA4 Percentage of employees covered by collective bargaining agreements

1. Relevance

Freedom of association is a human right as defined by international declarations and conventions, particularly ILO Core Conventions 87 & 98. Collective bargaining is an important form of stakeholder engagement and particularly relevant for reporting guidelines. It is a form of stakeholder engagement that helps build institutional frameworks and is seen by many as contributing to a stable society. Together with corporate governance, collective bargaining is part of an overall framework that contributes to responsible management. It is an instrument used by parties to facilitate collaborative efforts to enhance the positive social impacts of an organization. The percentage of employees covered by collective bargaining agreements is the most direct way to demonstrate an organization’s practices in relation to freedom of association.

2. Compilation

2.1 Use data from LA1 as the basis for calculating percentages for this Indicator.

2.2 Binding collective bargaining agreements include those signed by the reporting organization itself or by employer organizations of which it is a member. These agreements can be at the sector, national, regional, organizational, or workplace level.

2.3 Identify the total number of employees covered by collective bargaining agreements.

2.4 Report the percentage of total employees covered by collective bargaining agreements.

3. Definitions

None.

4. Documentation

Records of formal recognition agreements and signed collective agreements with independent trade unions will normally be held by the human resources or personnel department of the reporting organization.

5. References


• ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, 86th Session, 1998, Article 2 (a).

• OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, Section IV, Paragraph 2 (a).
**L5** Minimum notice period(s) regarding significant operational changes, including whether it is specified in collective agreements

1. **Relevance**

This Indicator provides insight into an organization’s practice of ensuring timely discussion of significant operational changes, and engaging with its employees and their representatives to negotiate and implement these changes (which may have positive or negative implications for workers). Timely and effective consultation with workers and other relevant parties, where practicable (such as with governmental authorities), helps to minimize any adverse impacts from operating changes on workers and related communities.

Minimum notice period(s) are an Indicator of an organization’s ability to maintain employee satisfaction and motivation while implementing significant changes to operations. This Indicator also allows an assessment of an organization’s consultation practices in relation to expectations expressed in relevant international norms. Consultative practices that result in good industrial relations can help provide positive working environments, reduce turnover, and minimize operational disruptions.

2. **Compilation**

2.1 Report the minimum number of weeks notice typically provided to employees and their elected representatives prior to the implementation of significant operational changes that could substantially affect them.

2.2 For organizations with collective bargaining agreements, report whether the notice period and/or provisions for consultation and negotiation are specified in collective agreements.

3. **Definitions**

**Significant operational changes**

Alterations to the reporting organization’s pattern of operations that will have substantial positive or negative consequences for its employees. Such changes may include, for example, restructuring, outsourcing of operations, closures, expansions, new openings, takeovers, sale of all or part of the organization, or mergers.

4. **Documentation**

Agreements specific to the organization will provide data for this Indicator.

5. **References**

- Declaration concerning the aims and purposes of the International Labour Organisation (Declaration of Philadelphia), 1944 - Annex to the ILO Constitution – Articles I (a) and III (e).
- OECD Guidelines for Multinational Companies, Revision 2000, Article IV, (2) & (3).
LA6 Percentage of total workforce represented in formal joint management-worker health and safety committees that help monitor and advise on occupational health and safety programs

1. Relevance
A health and safety committee with joint representation can facilitate a positive health and safety culture. The use of committees is one way to involve workers in driving the improvement of occupational health and safety in the workplace. This Indicator provides one measure of the extent to which the workforce is actively involved in health and safety.

2. Compilation
2.1 Identify formal health and safety committees that help monitor and advise on occupational safety programs at the facility level or higher with joint management/labor representation. ‘Formal’ refers to committees whose existence and function are integrated in the reporting organization’s organizational and authority structure, and that operate according to certain agreed, written rules.

2.2 Report the percentage of the total workforce represented in formal joint management-worker health and safety committees:
- None;
- Up to 25%;
- Between 25% and 50%;
- Between 50% and 75%; and
- Over 75%.

2.3 Report the level(s) at which the committee(s) typically operates (e.g., at facility level and/or at multi-facility, region, group, or company levels). This may either be a result of a formal policy, procedure, or informal practice within the organization.

3. Definitions
None.

4. Documentation
Potential sources of information include organizational procedures and minutes of occupational health & safety committee(s).

5. References
LA7 Rates of injury, occupational diseases, lost days, and absenteeism, and total number of work-related fatalities by region

1. Relevance

Health and safety performance is a key measure of an organization’s duty of care. Low injury and absentee rates are generally linked to positive trends in staff morale and productivity. This Indicator will show whether health and safety management practices are resulting in fewer occupational health and safety incidents.

Given the high numbers of volunteers working in the NGO sector, an organization also has a duty of care towards them. Where full- and/or part-time volunteers are critical for the running of the organization, it is relevant for an organization to report on injury rates.

2. Compilation

2.1 This Indicator should provide a regional breakdown for the following:

- The total workforce (i.e., total employees plus supervised workers);
- Independent contractors working on-site to whom the reporting organization is liable for the general safety of the working environment; and
- Volunteers by category.

2.2 Since some reporting organizations include minor (first-aid level) injuries in their data, indicate whether such injuries are included or excluded. Include injuries to volunteers.

2.4 In calculating ‘lost days’ indicate:

- Whether ‘days’ means ‘calendar days’ or ‘scheduled work days’; and
- At what point the ‘lost days’ count begins (e.g., the day after the accident or 3 days after the accident).

2.5 Report injury, occupational diseases, lost days, and absentee rates in the reporting period using the following formulas by region:

- Injury rate (IR)

\[ IR = \frac{\text{Total # of injuries}}{\text{Total hours worked}} \times 200,000 \]

Note: The injury rate should capture fatalities.

- Occupational diseases rate (ODR)
- Lost day rate (LDR)
- Absentee rate (AR)

Note: The factor 200,000 is derived from 50 working weeks @ 40 hours per 100 employees. By using this factor, the resulting rate is related to the number of employees, not the number of hours.

For volunteers report only on injury, and occupational diseases where applicable.

2.6 Report the system of rules applied in recording and reporting accident statistics. The ‘ILO Code of Practice on Recording and Notification of Occupational Accidents and Diseases’ was developed for the reporting, recording, and notification of workplace accidents. Where national law follows the ILO recommendations, it is sufficient to state that fact and that practice follows the law. In situations where national law does not comply, indicate which system of rules it applies and their relationship to the ILO code.

3. Definitions

Injury

A non-fatal or fatal injury arising out of or in the course of work.

Injury rate

The frequency of injuries relative to the total time worked by the total workforce in the reporting period.

Occupational disease

A disease arising from the work situation or activity (e.g., stress or regular exposure to harmful chemicals), or from a work-related injury.

Occupational disease rate

The frequency of occupational diseases relative to the total time worked by the total workforce in the reporting period.
Lost day
Time (‘days’) that could not be worked (and is thus ‘lost’) as a consequence of a worker or workers being unable to perform their usual work because of an occupational accident or disease. A return to limited duty or alternative work for the same organization does not count as lost days.

Lost day rate
The impact of occupational accidents and diseases as reflected in time off work by the affected workers. It is expressed by comparing the total lost days to the total number of hours scheduled to be worked by the workforce in the reporting period.

Absentee
An employee absent from work because of incapacity of any kind, not just as the result of work-related injury or disease. Permitted leave absences such as holidays, study, maternity/paternity, and compassionate leave are excluded.

Absentee rate
Refers to a measure of actual absentee days lost as defined above, expressed as a percentage of total days scheduled to be worked by the workforce for the same period.

Fatality
The death of a worker occurring in the current reporting period, arising from an occupational injury or disease sustained or contracted while in the reporting organization’s employ.

4. Documentation
Employee records, employee contracts, attendance records, and accident records will provide relevant data for this indicator.

5. References
LA8  **Education, training, counseling, prevention, and risk-control programs in place to assist workforce members, their families, volunteers or community members regarding serious diseases**

### 1. Relevance

As part of a preventative strategy for managing the health and safety of its workforce, this Indicator is relevant for any organization. It also has specific relevance for organizations working in countries with a high risk or incidence of communicable diseases, and those in professions that have a high incidence of specific diseases. The Indicator helps demonstrate the extent to which such issues have been addressed in organizational programs and the degree to which best practices are applied. Preventing serious diseases contributes to the health, satisfaction, and stability of the workforce, and helps maintain the organization’s social license to operate in a community or region.

### 2. Compilation

2.1 Report the programs related to assisting workforce members, their families, volunteers or community members regarding serious diseases using the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assistance Programs</th>
<th>Education/Training</th>
<th>Counseling</th>
<th>Prevention/Risk Control</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program recipients</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workers’ families</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community members</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2 Report whether there are workers or volunteers who are involved in occupational activities who have a high incidence or high risk of specific diseases.

### 3. Definitions

**Risk control**

Practices that seek to limit exposure and transmission of diseases.

**Serious diseases**

Occupational or non-occupational related impairment of health with serious consequences for employees, their families, volunteers and communities, such as HIV/AIDS, diabetes, RSI, and stress.

### 4. Documentation

Potential sources of information include organizational policies and operating procedures, minutes of internal occupational health committee(s), and human resource and health center records.

### 5. References

- GRI Cross-Reference: Reporting Guidance on HIV/AIDS: A GRI Resource Document. LA8 is a standard Indicator relevant for HIV/AIDS. Reporting organizations operating in areas with high prevalence should consider expanding their reporting on this issue and can view the GRI Resource Document for examples.
LA9 Health and safety topics covered in formal agreements with trade unions

1. Relevance
This Indicator demonstrates one of the ways in which the health and safety of the workforce is ensured. Formal agreements can promote the acceptance of responsibilities by both parties and the development of a positive health and safety culture. This Indicator will reveal the extent to which the workforce is actively involved in formal, labor-management agreements that determine health and safety management arrangements.

2. Compilation
2.1 Report whether formal agreements (either local or global) with trade unions cover health and safety. (Yes/No)

2.2 If yes, report the extent to which various health and safety topics are covered by local and global agreements signed by the organization.

Agreements at the local level typically address topics such as:

• Personal protective equipment;

• Joint management-employee health and safety committees;

• Participation of worker representatives in health and safety inspections, audits, and accident investigations;

• Training and education;

• Complaints mechanism;

• Right to refuse unsafe work; and

• Periodic inspections.

Agreements at the global level typically address topics such as:

• Compliance with the ILO;

• Arrangements or structures for resolving problems; and

• Commitments regarding target performance standards or level of practice to apply.

3. Definitions

Formal agreements
Written documents signed by both parties declaring a mutual intention to abide by what is contained in the documents. These can include, for example, local collective bargaining agreements as well as national and international framework agreements.

4. Documentation
Potential sources of information include collective agreements with trade unions.

5. References
LA10 Average hours of training per year per employee by employee category

1. Relevance
Maintaining and improving human capital, particularly through training that expands the knowledge base of employees, is a key element in organizational development. This Indicator provides insight into the scale of the organization's investment in this area and the degree to which the investment is made across the entire employee base. Access to training opportunities can also support progress in other areas of social performance, such as ensuring equal opportunity in the workplace. It also contributes to motivating improvement at the personal and organizational level.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify the total number of employees in each employment category across the organization’s operations at the end of the reporting year (e.g., senior management, middle management, professional, technical, administrative, production, maintenance, etc.). The organization should define employment categories based on its human resources system.

2.2 Identify total hours devoted to training personnel within each employee category.

Refer to LA1 for categories of volunteers and identify training hours per category.

2.3 Report the average number of hours of training per year per employee by employee category using the following formula:

\[
\text{LA10} = \frac{\text{Total hours per employee category}}{\text{Total employees per employee}}
\]

3. Definitions

Training

Refer to:

- All types of vocational training and instruction;
- Paid educational leave provided by the reporting organization for its employees;

- Training or education pursued externally and paid for in whole or in part by the reporting organization; and

- Training on specific topics such as health and safety. Training does not include on-site coaching by supervisors.

4. Documentation

Potential sources of information include employee records and training schedules.

5. References

- OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, Revision 2000, Articles II, 4 & IV, 2 (c), 3 & 5.
LA11 Programs for skills management and lifelong learning that support the continued employability of employees and assist them in managing career endings

1. Relevance

Programs for skills management allow organizations to plan skills acquisitions that will equip employees to meet strategic targets in a changing work environment. A more skilled and aware workforce enhances the organization’s human capital and contributes to employee satisfaction, which correlates strongly with improved performance. For those facing retirement, confidence and quality of work relations is improved by the knowledge that they will be supported in their transition from work to retirement. The goal of lifelong learning is to promote the development of knowledge and competencies that will enable each citizen to adapt to a rapidly-changing labor market and to participate actively in all spheres of economic life.

This may not be entirely applicable to all volunteers but where it is relevant it should be reported on. In certain circumstances, the development of skills and work experience is often a motivation for volunteers.

2. Compilation

2.1 Do employee training or assistance programs to upgrade skills provide any of the following?

- Internal training courses;
- Funding support for external training or education; and
- The provision of sabbatical periods with guaranteed return to employment.

2.2 Do transition assistance programs to support employees who are retiring or who have been terminated provide any of the following:

- Pre-retirement planning for intended retirees;
- Retraining for those intending to continue working;
- Severance pay;
- If severance pay is provided, does it take into account employee age and years of service;
- Job placement services; and
- Assistance (e.g., training, counseling) on transitioning to a non-working life.

3. Definitions

Continued employability

Adaptation to the changing demands of the workplace through the acquisition of new skills.

Career endings

Retirement by reaching statutory national retiring age or termination in the face of restructuring.

Skills management

Policies and programs that focus on developing employees’ skills to meet the evolving strategic needs of the organization and/or the industry.

Lifelong learning

Acquiring and updating abilities, knowledge, qualifications, and interests throughout life, from pre-school years to post-retirement.

4. Documentation

Potential sources of information include organizational procedures for termination and employee records.

5. References

LA12  Percentage of employees receiving regular performance and career development reviews

1. Relevance

Appraising employee performance against common targets aids the personal development of individual employees and contributes to both skills management and the development of human capital within the organization. Employee satisfaction can also be enhanced, which correlates with improved organizational performance. This Indicator indirectly demonstrates how the reporting organization works to monitor and maintain the skill sets of its employees. When reported in conjunction with LA12, the Indicator helps illustrate how the organization approaches skills enhancement. The percentage of employees receiving regular performance and career development reviews demonstrates the extent to which this system is applied throughout the organization.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify the total number of employees. The total number of employees should match that reported under LA1.

2.2 Report the percentage of total employees who received a formal performance appraisal and review during the reporting period.

3. Definitions

Regular performance and career development review

Performance targets and reviews are based on criteria known to the employee and his/her superior. This review is undertaken with the knowledge of the employee at least once per year. It can include an evaluation by the employee's direct superior, peers, or a wider range of employees. The review may also involve personnel from the human resources department.

4. Documentation

Potential sources of information include personnel records.

5. References

LA13 Composition of governance bodies and breakdown of employees per category according to gender, age group, minority group membership, and other indicators of diversity

1. Relevance

This Indicator provides a quantitative measure of diversity within an organization and can be used in conjunction with sectoral or regional benchmarks. The level of diversity within an organization provides insights into the human capital of the organization. Comparisons between broad workforce diversity and management team diversity also offer information on equal opportunity. Detailed information on the composition of the workforce can also help in assessing which issues may be of particular relevance to certain segments of the workforce.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify the diversity Indicators used by the reporting organization in its own monitoring and recording that may be relevant for reporting.

2.2 Identify the total number of employees in each employee category (e.g., board, senior management, middle management, administrative, production, etc.). Categories of employment should be defined based on the reporting organization’s own human resources system. The total number of employees should match that reported in LA1.

2.3 Report the percentage of employees in each of the following categories: (% of employees)
   - Gender: Female / Male
   - Minority groups
   - Age groups: Under 30 years old, 30-50 years old, over 50 years old

2.4 Report the percentage of individuals within the organization’s governance bodies (e.g., the board of directors, management committee, or similar body for non-corporate reporting organizations) in each of the following categories: (% of Individuals within Governance Bodies)
   - Gender: Female / Male
   - Minority groups
   - Age groups: Under 30 years old, 30-50 years old, over 50 years old

3. Definitions

Governance bodies

The committees or boards responsible for the strategic guidance of the organization, the effective monitoring of management, and the accountability of management to the broader organization and its stakeholders.

Indicators of diversity

Indicators for which the reporting organization gathers data may include, for example, citizenship, ancestry and ethnic origin, creed, and disability.

4. Documentation

Potential sources of information include employee records and minutes of equal opportunity committees.

5. References

- Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination based on Religion or Belief: UN GA: Resolution 36/55 of 26 November 1981.
- ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, 1998.

• OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, Revision 2000 (Employment and Industrial Relations Section).


• United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: UN GA Resolution 1904 (XVIII) of 20 November 1963.
LA14  Ratio of basic salary of men to women by employee category

1. Relevance
Many countries have introduced legislation to enforce the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. This issue is supported by ILO Convention 100 on 'Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value'. Equality of remuneration is a factor in retaining qualified candidates in the workforce. Where imbalances exist, an organization runs a risk to its reputation and legal challenges on the basis of discrimination.

2. Compilation
2.1 Identify the total number of employees in each employee category across the reporting organization's operations, broken down by gender using the information from LA13. Employee categories should be defined based on the reporting organization's own human resources system. The total number of employees should match that reported in LA1.

2.2 Identify the basic salary for women and for men in each employee category.

2.3 Any convenient pay period (e.g., hourly, weekly, monthly, or annually) may be used for this data.

2.4 Report the ratio of the basic salary of women to the basic salary of men for each employee category.

3. Definitions
Basic Salary
A fixed, minimum amount paid to an employee for performing his/her duties. This does not include any additional remuneration such as that based on years of service, overtime work, bonuses, benefit payments, or any additional allowances (e.g., transportation allowances).

4. Documentation
Sources of information for this Indicator include employee and payment records.

5. References
• ILO Convention 100, 'Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value', 1951.
• ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, 1998.
Human Rights

Performance Indicators

Aspect: Investment and Procurement Practices
- **HR1** Percentage and total number of significant investment agreements that include human rights clauses or that have undergone human rights screening.
- **HR2** Percentage of significant suppliers and contractors that have undergone screening on human rights and actions taken.
- **HR3** Total hours of employee training on policies and procedures concerning aspects of human rights that are relevant to operations, including the percentage of employees trained.

Aspect: Non-discrimination
- **HR4** Total number of incidents of discrimination and actions taken.

Aspect: Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining
- **HR5** Operations identified in which the right to exercise freedom of association and collective bargaining may be at significant risk, and actions taken to support these rights.

Aspect: Child Labor
- **HR6** Operations identified as having significant risk for incidents of child labor, and measures taken to contribute to the elimination of child labor.

Aspect: Forced and Compulsory Labor
- **HR7** Operations identified as having significant risk for incidents of forced or compulsory labor, and measures taken to contribute to the elimination of forced or compulsory labor.

Aspect: Security Practices
- **HR8** Percentage of security personnel trained in the organization’s policies or procedures concerning aspects of human rights that are relevant to operations.

Aspect: Indigenous Rights
- **HR9** Total number of incidents of violations involving rights of indigenous people and actions taken.
Relevance

Human Rights Performance Indicators elicit disclosures on the impacts and activities an organization has on the civil and political human rights of its stakeholders. The Aspects within these Performance Indicators are based on internationally recognized standards, primarily the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the ILO Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work of 1998 (in particular the eight Core Conventions of the ILO). Although closely related, the categories of Human Rights and Labor Practices serve different purposes. Human Rights Indicators focus on how the reporting organization maintains and respects the basic rights of a human being, whereas the Indicators on Labor Practices reflect the quality of the work and the working environment.

The Performance Indicators seek to provide comparable measures of results or outcomes, and therefore focus primarily on incidents relating to core human rights. Incidents typically include ‘points of impact’ on stakeholder groups as well as risks for the organization where violations have occurred. The Indicator set addresses three general areas:

- Incidents related to basic aspects of human rights (HR4 and HR9);
- The capacity and knowledge enabling the organization to effectively address human rights, including training and internal procedures (HR3, HR5, HR6, HR7, and HR8); and
- The organization’s integration of human rights into its external business relationships either through investments or suppliers (HR1 and HR2).

Definitions

Human rights

Generally recognized human rights are defined by the following five conventions and declarations:

4. ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, 1998 (in particular the eight Core Conventions of the ILO).

General References

- ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, 1998.
**HR1** Percentage and total number of significant investment agreements that include human rights clauses or that have undergone human rights screening

1. **Relevance**

This measure is one indication of the extent to which human rights are integrated in an organization’s economic decisions. This is particularly relevant for organizations that operate within or are partners in ventures in regions where the protection of human rights is of significant concern. Integrating human rights criteria in screening or including human rights in performance requirements can be part of a strategy to reduce the risks of investment. Problems with an organization’s human rights record can result in reputational damage for the investing organization and can affect the stability of investments.

2. **Compilation**

2.1 Count only the agreements that are significant in terms of size or strategic importance. The significance may be determined by the level of approval required within the organization for the investment or other criteria that can be consistently applied to agreements. The reporting organization should disclose their definition of “significant agreements”.

2.2 Identify the total number of significant investment agreements finalized during the reporting period that either moved the organization into a position of ownership in another entity or initiated a capital investment project that was material to financial accounts.

2.3 If multiple significant investment agreements are undertaken with the same partner, the number of the agreements should reflect the number of separate projects undertaken or entities created.

2.4 Report the total number and percentage of significant investment agreements that include human rights clauses or that underwent human rights screening.

3. **Definitions**

**Human rights clauses**

Specific terms in a written agreement that define minimum expectations of performance with respect to human rights as a requirement for investment.

**Human rights screening**

A formal or documented process that applies a set of human rights performance criteria as one of the factors in determining whether to proceed with an investment.

4. **Documentation**

Potential information sources include the reporting organization’s legal, investor relations, and financial departments, as well as documentation collected through quality management systems.

5. **References**

None.
HR2 Percentage of significant suppliers and contractors that have undergone screening on human rights and actions taken

1. Relevance

The development of extensive networks of suppliers and contractors to produce products and services has generated interest in how reporting organizations apply their human rights policies to their supply networks. This is particularly relevant for organizations in sectors that rely heavily on outsourcing and global networks.

Processes that screen and monitor human rights performance within the supply chain can provide evidence of an organization’s positive impact on the wider business community. Issues with human rights performance on the part of significant suppliers and contractors can result in reputational damage for their business partners and/or create instability in the suppliers’ operations. Screening is part of risk management, and the percentage indicated here indicates how regularly an organization takes this particular risk into consideration.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify the total number of the reporting organization’s significant suppliers and contractors.

2.2 Report the percentage of contracts with significant suppliers and contractors that included criteria or screening on human rights. See HR1 for definitions of ‘criteria’ or ‘screening’.

2.3 Report the percentage of contracts with significant suppliers and contractors that were either declined or imposed performance conditions, or were subject to other actions as a result of human rights screening.

3. Definitions

Significant suppliers and contractors

External parties from whom products or services are obtained or with whom contracts are concluded for the provision of such products and services. In the context of this Indicator, ‘significant’ refers to suppliers and contractors who are:

- The primary providers of a given type of good or service and overall comprise the majority of the organization’s purchases; or
- Identified as having the highest risk of incidents related to human rights.

4. Documentation

Potential information sources include the reporting organization’s procurement or purchasing and legal departments.

5. References

None.
**HR3 Total hours of employee training on policies and procedures concerning aspects of human rights that are relevant to operations, including the percentage of employees trained**

**1. Relevance**

Information generated from this Indicator offers insight into an organization’s capacity to implement its human rights policies and procedures. Human rights have become well-established in international standards and laws, and this has obligated organizations to implement specialized training that equips employees to address human rights in the course of their regular work. The number of employees trained and the amount of training they receive both contribute to an assessment of an organization’s depth of knowledge about human rights.

**2. Compilation**

2.1 Identify the total number of hours devoted to employee training, using data from LA10.

2.2 Identify the total number of employees, using data from LA1.

2.3 Identify employees who have received formal training in the organization’s policies and procedures on human rights issues and their applicability to the employees' work. This can refer either to training dedicated to the topic of human rights or to a human rights module within a general training program.

2.4 Report the total number of hours in the reporting period devoted to training on policies and procedures concerning aspects of human rights that are relevant to operations.

2.5 Report the percentage of employees in the reporting period trained in policies and procedures concerning aspects of human rights that are relevant to operations.

**3. Definitions**

None

**4. Documentation**

Potential sources of information include employee records of training and training schedules.

**5. References**

None.
**HR4 Total number of incidents of discrimination and actions taken**

1. **Relevance**

   Human rights extend beyond the rights of employees in the workplace. Anti-discrimination policy is a key requirement of international conventions and social legislation and guidelines. The issue of discrimination is also addressed by ILO Core Conventions 100 & 111. An effective monitoring system is necessary to ensure compliance throughout the reporting organization’s operations. Stakeholders will seek assurance that such policies and monitoring are effective.

2. **Compilation**

   2.1 Identify incidents of discrimination on grounds of race, color, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction, or social origin as defined by the ILO, or other relevant forms of discrimination involving internal and/or external stakeholders across operations in the reporting period.

   ‘Incidents’ refer to legal actions, complaints registered with the organization or competent authorities through a formal process, or instances of non-compliance identified by the organization through established procedures such as management system audits or formal monitoring programs.

   2.2 Report the total number of incidents of discrimination during the reporting period.

   2.3 Report the status of the incidents and the actions taken with reference to the following:

   - Organization has reviewed the incident;
   - Remediation plan is being implemented;
   - Remediation plan has been implemented and results reviewed through routine internal management review processes; and
   - Incident is no longer subject to action (i.e., resolved, case completed, no further by action by company, etc.).

3. **Definitions**

   **Discrimination**

   The act and the result of treating a person unequally by imposing unequal burdens or denying benefits rather than treating the person fairly on the basis of individual merit. Discrimination can also include harassment, defined as a course of comments or actions that are unwelcome, or should reasonably be known to be unwelcome, to the person towards whom they are addressed.

4. **Documentation**

   Potential information sources include the reporting organization’s legal and compliance departments.

5. **References**

   - Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination based on Religion or Belief, UN General Assembly Resolution 36/55 of 26 November 1981.
Operations identified in which the right to exercise freedom of association or collective bargaining may be at significant risk, and actions taken to support these rights

1. Relevance

Inherent in the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining is the protection of the right of workers (and employers) to organize collectively in organizations of their own choice. The Right to Freedom of Association is a fundamental provision of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and is defined by ILO Core Conventions 87 & 98.

This Indicator aims to reveal actions that the reporting organization has taken to evaluate whether opportunities exist for workers to exercise their rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining. It also aims to reveal actions that have been taken to support these rights across the organization’s range of operations. This Indicator does not require the reporting organization to express a specific opinion on the quality of national legal systems.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify operations in which employee rights to exercise freedom of association or collective bargaining may be at risk. The process of identification should reflect the organization’s approach to risk assessment on this issue and can draw from recognized international data sources such as ILO reports (yearly report of ILO Committee of Experts on the implementation of ratified conventions and recommendations, as well as the Governing Body’s reports on freedom of association).

2.2 Report operations identified in which employee rights to exercise freedom of association or collective bargaining may be at risk either in terms of:

- Type of operations (e.g., manufacturing plant); or
- Countries or geographical areas with operations considered at risk.

2.3 Report on any measures taken by the organization in the reporting period intended to support rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining. See the ILO Tripartite Declaration and OECD Guidelines for further guidance.

3. Definitions

Freedom of association

Workers and employers may establish and join organizations of their own choosing without the need for prior authorization.

4. Documentation

Potential information sources include the reporting organization’s legal, compliance, and human resources departments.

5. References

HR6 Operations identified as having significant risk for incidents of child labor, and measures taken to contribute to the elimination of child labor

1. Relevance

The abolition of child labor is a key principle and objective of major human rights declarations and legislation, and is subject to ILO Conventions 138 and 182. The presence and effective implementation of policies on child labor are a basic expectation of socially responsible conduct.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify operations considered to have significant risk for incidents of:

- Child labor; and/or
- Young workers exposed to hazardous work.

The process of identification should reflect the organization’s approach to risk assessment on this issue and can draw from recognized international data sources such as ILO reports.

2.2 Report operations considered to have significant risk for incidents of child labor either in terms of:

- Type of operations (e.g., manufacturing plant); or
- Countries or geographical areas with operations considered at risk.

2.3 Report on any measures taken by the organization in the reporting period intended to contribute to the elimination of child labor. See the ILO Tripartite Declaration and OECD Guidelines for further guidance.

3. Definitions

Child

This term applies to all persons under the age of 15 years or under the age of completion of compulsory schooling (whichever is higher), except in certain countries where economies and educational facilities are insufficiently developed and a minimum age of 14 years might apply. These countries of exception are specified by the ILO in response to special application by the country concerned and consultation with representative organizations of employers and workers.

Note: ILO Convention 138 refers to both child labor and young workers. See below for the definition of ‘young worker’.

Young worker

A person who is above the applicable minimum working age and younger than 18 years of age.

4. Documentation

Potential information sources include the reporting organization’s legal, compliance, and human resources departments.

5. References

HR7 Operations identified as having significant risk for incidents of forced or compulsory labor, and measures taken to contribute to the elimination of forced or compulsory labor

1. Relevance

Not to be subjected to forced or compulsory labor is considered a fundamental human right and is a provision of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subject to ILO Core Conventions 29 & 105. This type of labor can exist in a variety of forms and the data provided will indicate the reporting organization’s challenges in contributing to the abolition of forced and compulsory labor.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify operations considered to have significant risk for incidents of forced or compulsory labor. The process of identification should reflect the organization’s approach to risk assessment on this issue and can draw from recognized international data sources such as ILO reports.

2.2 Report operations considered to have significant risk for incidents of compulsory labor either in terms of:

- Type of operations (e.g. manufacturing plant); or
- Countries or geographical areas with operations considered at risk.

2.3 Report on any measures taken by the organization in the reporting period intended to contribute to the elimination of forced or compulsory labor. See the ILO Tripartite Declaration and OECD Guidelines for further guidance.

3. Definitions

Forced or compulsory labor

All work and service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered her/himself voluntarily (ILO Convention 29, Forced Labour Convention, 1930). The most extreme examples are slave labor, prison labor, and bonded labor, but debts can also be used as a means of maintaining workers in a state of forced labor. Withholding identity papers, requiring compulsory deposits, or compelling workers, under threat of firing, to work extra hours to which they have not previously agreed, are all examples of forced labor.

4. Documentation

Potential information sources include the reporting organization’s legal, compliance, and human resources departments.

5. References

- League of Nations (later UN) Slavery Convention, 1927.
HR8 Percentage of security personnel trained in the organization’s policies or procedures concerning aspects of human rights that are relevant to operations

1. Relevance
The conduct of security personnel towards third parties is underpinned by their training in human rights issues, particularly regarding the use of force. Training security personnel can help prevent reputational and litigation risks arising from inappropriate actions or approaches not condoned by the reporting organization. Information provided under this Indicator helps to demonstrate the extent to which management systems pertaining to human rights are implemented. This measure indicates the proportion of the security force that can reasonably be assumed to be aware of the organization’s expectations of human rights performance.

2. Compilation
2.1 Identify the total number of security personnel the reporting organization employs directly.

2.2 Report the percentage of security personnel who have received formal training in the organization’s policies on, or specific procedures for, human rights issues and their application to security. This can refer either to training dedicated to the topic or a module within a more general training program.

2.3 Report whether training requirements also apply to third party organizations providing security personnel.

3. Definitions
Security personnel
Individuals employed for the purposes of guarding property of the organization, crowd control, loss prevention, and escorting persons, goods, and valuables.

4. Documentation
Potential information sources include the reporting organization’s human resources department and training records received by internal security personnel. Contractors may hold similar information with respect to their employees.

5. References
HR9  Total number of incidents of violations involving rights of indigenous people and actions taken

1. Relevance

The number of recorded incidents involving the rights of indigenous peoples provides information about the implementation of an organization’s policies relating to indigenous peoples. This information will help indicate the state of relations with these stakeholder communities, particularly in regions where indigenous people reside or have interests near operations of the reporting organization. The information also provides an additional entry point for support groups. ILO Conventions 107 and 169 address the rights of indigenous peoples.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify incidents involving indigenous rights among the organization’s own employees, and in communities near existing operations that are likely to be affected by planned or proposed future operations of the reporting organization.

‘Incidents’ refer to legal actions, complaints registered with the organization or competent authorities through a formal process, or instances of non-compliance identified by the organization through established procedures such as management system audits or formal monitoring programs.

2.2 Report the total number of identified incidents involving indigenous rights during the reporting period.

2.3 Report the status of the incidents and actions taken with reference to the following:

- Organization has reviewed the incident;
- Remediation plan is being implemented;
- Remediation plan has been implemented and results reviewed through routine internal management review processes; and
- Incident is no longer subject to action (i.e., resolved, case completed, no further by action by company, etc.).

3. Definitions

Indigenous peoples

Indigenous peoples are those whose social, cultural, political, and economic conditions distinguish them from other sections of the dominant national community, or who are regarded as indigenous on account of their descent from the populations which inhabited the country, or a geographical region to which the country belongs, at the time of conquest or colonization or the establishment of present state boundaries and who, irrespective of their legal status, retain some or all of their own social, economic, cultural, and political institutions.

4. Documentation

Potential information sources include the reporting organization’s operating procedures and guidelines on the issue. Other information may be supplied by country managers and by legal specialists of the reporting organization. Data on indigenous people within the workforce may be obtainable from employee records.

5. References

Indicator Protocols Set
Society (SO)
Society

Performance Indicators

Aspect: Community

SO1 Nature, scope, and effectiveness of any programs and practices that assess and manage the impacts of operations on communities, including entering, operating, and exiting.

Aspect: Corruption

SO2 Percentage and total number of programs/business units analyzed for risks related to corruption.

SO3 Percentage of employees trained in organization’s anti-corruption policies and procedures.

SO4 Actions taken in response to incidents of corruption.

See Sector-Specific Commentary in Protocol.

Aspect: Public Policy

SO5 Public policy positions and participation in public policy development and lobbying.

SO6 Total value of financial and in-kind contributions to political parties, politicians, and related institutions by country.

Aspect: Anti-Competitive Behavior

SO7 Total number of legal actions for anti-competitive behavior, anti-trust, and monopoly practices and their outcomes.

Aspect: Compliance

SO8 Monetary value of significant fines and total number of non-monetary sanctions for non-compliance with laws and regulations.
Relevance

The categories of Labor, Human Rights, and Product Responsibility address social impacts associated with specific stakeholder groups (such as employees or customers). However, the social impacts of organizations are also linked to interactions with market structures and social institutions that establish the social environment within which stakeholder groups interact. These interactions, as well as the organization's approach to dealing with social groups such as communities, represent an important component of sustainability performance. The Society Performance Indicators therefore focus on the impacts organizations have on the communities in which they operate, and how the organization's interactions with other social institutions are managed and mediated. In particular, information is sought on bribery and corruption, involvement in public policy-making, monopoly practices, and compliance with laws and regulations other than labor and environmental.

Definitions

Corruption

Corruption is 'the abuse of entrusted power for private gain' and can be instigated by individuals in the public or private sector. It is interpreted here to include such corrupt practices as bribery, fraud, extortion, collusion, conflict of interest, and money laundering. In this context, it includes an offer or receipt of any gift, loan, fee, reward, or other advantage to or from any person as an inducement to do something that is dishonest, illegal, or a breach of trust in the conduct of the enterprise's business. This may include gifts other than money, such as free goods and holidays, or special personal services provided for the purpose of, or liable to result in, an improper advantage or that may result in moral pressure to receive such an advantage.

General References

- Inter-American Convention Against Corruption, 1996.

1 Transparency International
2 These definitions are based on ‘Business Principles for Countering Bribery’ which have been developed through a project managed by Transparency International.
SO1  Nature, scope, and effectiveness of any programs and practices that assess and manage the impacts of operations on communities, including entering, operating, and exiting

1. Relevance

Organizational operations such as entering, operating, and exiting have a number of significant impacts on the sustainability of a specific area. Indicators in the GRI Framework, such as environmental emissions or economic data, will offer an overall picture of these positive and negative impacts, but may not be able to break them down to the level of individual communities or geographic areas. As such, it is important to have a measure that reflects the approach used by the organization to manage its impacts, both negative and positive, systematically across the range of communities in which it operates.

Stakeholders are interested in the robustness of the approach the organization applies to managing the impacts it has on a community. Thus, having reliable management systems in place can enhance the brand and reputation of the organization as a potential partner. It also simultaneously strengthens the ability of organizations to maintain existing operations and to initiate new ones.

2. Compilation

2.1 Report whether there are programs in place for assessing the impacts of operations on local communities:
   - Prior to entering the community;
   - While operating in the community; and
   - While making decisions to exit the community.

2.2 Report whether programs or policies define:
   - How data is collected for such programs, including by whom; and
   - How to select community members (individual or group) from whom information will be gathered.

2.3 Report the number and percentage of operations to which the programs apply.

2.4 Report whether the organization’s programs for managing community impacts have been effective in mitigating negative impacts and maximizing positive impacts, including the scale of persons affected.

2.5 Report examples of how feedback and analysis of data on community impacts have informed steps toward further community engagement on the part of the reporting organization.

3. Definitions

Impacts of operations

This refers primarily to social impacts, such as:

- Community health and safety regarding infrastructure, hazardous materials, emissions and discharges, and health and disease;
- Involuntary resettlement, physical and economic displacement and livelihood restoration; and
- Local culture, gender, indigenous peoples, and cultural heritage.

This definition excludes impacts covered by other Indicators, such as EN10 (water sources/habitats affected by water use), EN12 (areas with high biodiversity value), and LA8 (serious diseases). It also excludes voluntary contributions (in-kind and cash) to communities.

4. Documentation

Potential information sources include organizational policies and procedures, results of data collection from community programs, and analysis results of external stakeholder forums, joint community committees, stakeholder reports, and other inputs.

Both internal and external sources and references should be used.

5. References

None.
SO2 Percentage and total number of programs/business units analyzed for risks related to corruption

1. Relevance

Efforts to manage reputational risks arising from corrupt practices by employees or organizations/business partners require a system that has supporting procedures in place. This measure identifies two specific actions for ensuring the effective deployment of the reporting organization’s policies and procedures by its own employees and its intermediaries or organizations/business partners. Risk analysis is an important and necessary management approach that helps to assess the potential for incidents of corruption within the organization.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify programs/business units analyzed for organizational risks related to corruption during the reporting period. This refers to either a formal risk assessment focused on corruption or the inclusion of corruption as a risk factor in overall risk assessments.

2.2 Report the total number and percentage of programs/business units analyzed for risks related to corruption.

3. Definitions

None.

4. Documentation

Potential information sources include monitoring reports.

5. References

**SO3** Percentage of employees trained in organization’s anti-corruption policies and procedures

1. **Relevance**

   Efforts to manage reputational risks arising from corrupt practices by employees or business partners require a system that has supporting procedures in place. Training is an important element of such a system as it builds internal awareness and capacity necessary to prevent incidents of corruption. This measure reveals the proportion of the organization’s employees that can reasonably be assumed to be aware of the anti-corruption issues.

2. **Compilation**

   2.1 Identify the total number of employees, distinguishing between management and non-management employees, using the data from LA1.

   2.2 Report separately the percentage of total number of management and non-management employees who have received anti-corruption training during the reporting period.

3. **Definitions**

   None.

4. **Documentation**

   Potential information sources include training records.

5. **References**

   - Inter-American Convention Against Corruption, 1996.
SO4 Actions taken in response to incidents of corruption

1. Relevance

Corruption can be a significant risk to an organization's reputation and business. It is broadly linked to contributing to poverty in transition economies, damage to the environment, abuse of human rights, abuse of democracy, misallocation of investments, and undermining the rule of law. Organizations are increasingly expected by the marketplace, international norms, and stakeholders to demonstrate their adherence to integrity, governance, and good business practices. This indicator demonstrates specific actions taken to limit exposure to sources of corruption and reduce the risk of new instances of corruption. For stakeholders, there is an interest in both the occurrence of incidents, but also how the organization chooses to respond.

Corruption, to be defined beyond the material act and impact of fraud and theft, is a significant risk to the integrity of an organization, to its opportunities to realize its mission, to its social, economic and political relations with, within and outside its key constituencies and to the wider field of civil society action. It contributes to shortage and misallocation of resources, poverty, environmental damage, and abuse of human rights (including rights to political participation), in addition to undermining the rule of law. Increasingly, organizations are expected to live up to voluntary and statutory rules, both at national and international level, to demonstrate adherence to principles of good practice and standards of governance. Reporting on instances of corruption helps to demonstrate the capacity of organizations to uphold standards of governance and social integrity, limit exposure to and risk of repeated material and reputational damage, both to its own work and the wellbeing of its constituents, and practice in response to such threats.

2. Compilation

2.1 Report actions taken in response to incidents of corruption, including:

- The total number of incidents in which employees, volunteers and members of governance bodies were dismissed or disciplined for corruption; and

- The total number of incidents when contracts with business (and other) partners were not renewed due to violations related to corruption.

2.2 Report any concluded legal cases regarding corrupt practices brought against the reporting organization or its employees during the reporting period and the outcomes of such cases.

3. Definitions

None.

4. Documentation

Potential information sources include legal department records of cases brought against the reporting organization, its employees, business partners, or contractors; minutes of the proceedings of internal disciplinary hearings; and contracts with business partners.

5. References

- Inter-American Convention Against Corruption, 1996.
SOS Public policy positions and participation in public policy development and lobbying

1. Relevance
This Indicator provides information that allows organizations to compare public policy positions with formal sustainability policies and objectives. This information provides insight into the extent to which publicly-expressed positions on sustainability are consistently embedded across the organization and aligned across different units. This allows a comparison of organizational priorities (particularly when making comparisons within the same sector) at the same time as the particular policy positions help to clarify the strategic relevance of sustainability issues for the organization. It also helps to provide transparency for lobbying activities for those concerned with the integrity of the practices and potential impacts on stakeholders.

2. Compilation
2.1 Participation refers to efforts where the organization has taken a formal position or activities where participation has been formally recognized. While this could include activities through trade associations, roundtables, task forces, and other forms of lobbying with public policymakers, the disclosure relates to the position of the organization and not that of the bodies in which it is involved.

2.2 Report the significant issues that are the focus of the reporting organization’s participation in public policy development and lobbying. This refers to participation at the level of the organization rather than individual operations.

2.3 Report the core positions held on each of the reported issues above and explain any significant differences between lobbying positions and stated policies, sustainability goals, or other public positions.

3. Definitions
Public policy development
Organized or coordinated activities to effect government policy formulation.

Lobbying
Refers to efforts to persuade or influence persons holding political office, or candidates for such office, to sponsor policies, and/or to influence the development of legislation or political decisions. In this Indicator, this can relate to lobbying governments at any level or international institutions.

4. Documentation
Potential information sources include the public policy statements of the reporting organization; internal minutes of government relations committees or departments; statements of positions adopted by the reporting organization in relevant trade associations; and records of interactions with public policy-makers.

5. References
SO6 Total value of financial and in-kind contributions to political parties, politicians, and related institutions by country

1. Relevance
The purpose of this indicator is to reflect the scale of the reporters’ engagement in political funding and to ensure transparency in political dealings and relationships with the reporting organization. Many countries have legislation that sets limits on official expenditure by parties and political candidates for campaigning purposes.

2. Compilation
2.1 Identify the total monetary value of financial and in-kind contributions committed by the reporting organization during the reporting period to political parties, politicians, and related institutions. The value of in-kind contributions should be estimated.

2.2 Calculate contributions in accordance with national accounting rules (where these exist).

2.3 Report the total monetary value broken down by country for those countries where:
   - The organization has major operations and/or sales;
   - The organization holds a significant share of the market in comparison to other organizations; or
   - The sums contributed are significant compared to the total amount contributed globally.

3. Definitions
Contributions
Contributions can include donations, loans, sponsorships, purchase of tickets for fundraising events, advertising, use of facilities, design and printing, donation of equipment, retainers or jobs for elected politicians or candidates for office, etc.

Related institutions
Any bodies established with the primary purpose of arranging official or unofficial funding support for political parties, their elected representatives, or persons seeking political office. This definition also includes think-tanks, policy organs, trade associations, and other support organizations that are linked to the creation of support for political parties, their representatives, or candidates for office.

4. Documentation
Potential information sources include the accounting records of external payments and public disclosure statements.

5. References
**SO7** Total number of legal actions for anti-competitive behavior, anti-trust, and monopoly practices and their outcomes

1. Relevance

Mergers and acquisitions can affect consumer choice, pricing, and other factors that are essential to efficient markets. Legislation has been introduced in many countries that seeks to control or prevent monopolies, with the underlying assumption that competition between enterprises also promotes economic efficiency and sustainable growth. Legal action indicates a situation in which the market actions or status of the organization have reached a sufficient scale to merit concern by a third party. Legal decisions arising from these situations can carry the risk of significant disruption of market activities for the organization and/or punitive measures.

2. Compilation

2.1 This Indicator pertains to legal actions initiated under national or international laws designed primarily for the purpose of regulating anti-competitive behavior, anti-trust, or monopoly practices.

2.2 Identify legal actions pending or completed during the reporting period regarding anti-competitive behavior and violations of anti-trust and monopoly legislation in which the reporting organization has been identified as a participant.

2.3 Report the total number of legal actions for anti-competitive behavior, anti-trust, and monopoly practices.

2.4 Report the main outcomes of such actions, including any decisions or judgements.

3. Definitions

**Anti-competitive behavior**

Actions of the reporting organization and/or employees that may result in collusion with potential competitors to fix prices, coordinate bids, create market or output restrictions, impose geographic quotas, or allocate customers, suppliers, geographic areas, and product lines with the purpose of limiting the effects of market competition.

**Anti-trust and monopoly practices**

Actions of the reporting organization that may result in collusion to erect barriers to entry to the sector, unfair business practices, abuse of market position, cartels, anti-competitive mergers, price-fixing, and other collusive actions which prevent competition.

4. Documentation

Potential information sources include the legal department records and public records.

5. References

SO8 Monetary value of significant fines and total number of non-monetary sanctions for non-compliance with laws and regulations

1. Relevance

The level of non-compliance within the organization helps to indicate the ability of management to ensure that operations conform to certain performance parameters. From an economic perspective, ensuring compliance helps to reduce financial risks that occur either directly through fines or indirectly through impacts on reputation. The strength of an organization's compliance record can also affect its ability to expand operations or gain permits.

Indicators EN28 and PR9 address compliance with specific aspects of law. An organization's overall record of compliance with the range of laws under which it must operate is equally of interest. This Indicator is intended to reflect significant fines and non-monetary sanctions under laws or regulations not covered by EN28 and PR9, such as laws and regulations related to accounting fraud, workplace discrimination, corruption, etc.

2. Compilation

2.1 Identify administrative or judicial sanctions levied against the organization for failure to comply with laws or regulations, including:

- International declarations/conventions/treaties, and national, sub-national, regional, and local regulations, and,

- Cases brought against the organization through the use of international dispute mechanisms or national dispute mechanisms supervised by government authorities.

2.2 Report significant fines and non-monetary sanctions in terms of:

- Total monetary value of significant fines;
- Number of non-monetary sanctions; and
- Cases brought through dispute resolution mechanisms.

2.3 Where the reporting organization has not identified any non-compliance with laws or regulations, a brief statement to this fact is sufficient.

2.4 Organizations are encouraged to report fines and non-monetary sanctions in terms of the focus of laws.

3. Definitions

None.

4. Documentation

Data sources include audit results or regulatory tracking systems operated by the legal department. Information regarding monetary fines can be found in accounting departments.

5. References

None.
Indicator Protocols Set
Product Responsibility (PR)
### Product Responsibility

#### Performance Indicators

**Aspect: Customer Health and Safety**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PR1</th>
<th>Life cycle stages in which health and safety impacts of products and services are assessed for improvement, and percentage of significant products and services categories subject to such procedures.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PR2</td>
<td>Total number of incidents of non-compliance with regulations and voluntary codes concerning health and safety impacts of products and services, by type of outcomes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Aspect: Product and Service Labeling**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PR3</th>
<th>Type of product and service information required by procedures, and percentage of significant products and services subject to such information requirements.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PR4</td>
<td>Total number of incidents of non-compliance with regulations and voluntary codes concerning product and service information and labeling, by type of outcomes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR5</td>
<td>Practices related to customer satisfaction, including results of surveys measuring customer satisfaction.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Aspect: Marketing Communications**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PR6</th>
<th>Programs for adherence to laws, standards, and voluntary codes related to fundraising and marketing communications, including advertising, promotion, and sponsorship.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PR7</td>
<td>Total number of incidents of non-compliance with regulations and voluntary codes concerning marketing communications, including advertising, promotion, and sponsorship, by type of outcomes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Aspect: Customer Privacy**

| PR8 | Total number of substantiated complaints regarding breaches of customer privacy and losses of customer data. |

**Aspect: Compliance**

| PR9 | Monetary value of significant fines for non-compliance with laws and regulations concerning the provision and use of products and services. |

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*See Sector-Specific Commentary in Protocol.*
Relevance

The Product Responsibility Indicator set addresses the effects of products and services management on customers and users. Organizations are expected to exercise due care in the design of their products and services to ensure they are fit for their intended use and do not pose unintended hazards to health and safety. In addition, communications related to both products and services and users need to take into consideration the information needs of customers and their rights to privacy. The Indicators are primarily structured in pairs, with a Core Indicator seeking disclosure on the processes in place to address the aspect, and an additional Indicator to report on degree of compliance.

Definitions

Type of non-compliance

Court judgment on failure to act in accordance with regulations or laws, categorized by the nature of the laws or regulations breached.

Product and service information/labeling

Information and labeling are used synonymously and describe communication delivered with the product or service describing its characteristics.

Customer privacy

The right of the customer to privacy and personal refuge, including matters such as the protection of data, the use of information/data only for its original intended purpose (unless specifically agreed otherwise), the obligation to observe confidentiality, and protection from misuse or theft. A customer is understood to include end-customers (consumer) as well as business-to-business customers.

Marketing communication

The combination of strategies, systems, methods, and activities used by an organization to promote its reputation, brands, products, and services to target audiences. Marketing communications can include activities such as advertising, personal selling, promotion, public relations, and sponsorship.

General References

**PR1** Life cycle stages in which health and safety impacts of products and services are assessed for improvement, and percentage of significant products and services categories subject to such procedures

1. **Relevance**

   This measure helps to identify the existence and scope of systematic efforts to address health and safety across the life cycle of a product and/or service. Customers expect products and services to perform their intended functions satisfactorily, and not pose a risk to health and safety. This responsibility is not only subject to laws and regulations, but is also addressed in voluntary codes such as the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

   Efforts made to protect the health and safety of those who use or deliver the product/service have direct impacts on an organization’s reputation, the organization’s legal and financial risk due to recall, market differentiation in relation to quality, and employee motivation.

2. **Compilation**

   2.1 In each of the following life cycle stages, report whether the health and safety impacts of products and services are assessed for improvement:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>yes</th>
<th>no</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Development of product concept</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>R &amp; D</td>
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<td>Certification</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manufacturing and production</td>
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<td>Marketing and promotion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Storage distribution and supply</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use and service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Disposal, reuse, or recycling</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

   2.2 Report the percentage of significant product or service categories that are covered by and assessed for compliance with such procedures.

3. **Definitions**

   None.

4. **Documentation**

   Potential information sources include the reporting organization’s legal and sales departments as well as the documentation collected through quality management systems.

5. **References**

PR2  Total number of incidents of non-compliance with regulations and voluntary codes concerning the health and safety impacts of products and services during their life cycle, by type of outcomes

1. Relevance

Protection of health and safety is a recognized goal of many national and international regulations. Failing to comply with legal requirements indicates either inadequate internal management systems and procedures, or lack of implementation. In addition to direct financial consequences, ongoing compliance failure poses increased financial risk due to damage to both reputation and employee motivation. For an organization, the number of incidents of non-compliance should remain as low as possible. The trends revealed by this Indicator will indicate improvements or deterioration in the effectiveness of internal controls.

2. Compilation

2.1 This indicator addresses the life cycle of the product or service once it is available for use and therefore subject to regulations concerning the health and safety of products and services.

2.2 Where the reporting organization has not identified any non-compliance with regulations and voluntary codes, a brief statement to this fact is sufficient.

2.3 Identify the total number of incidents of non-compliance with regulations and voluntary codes concerning the health and safety of products and services during the reporting period.

2.4 This indicator refers to incidents of non-compliance within the reporting period. If a substantial number of incidents relate to events in preceding years, this should be indicated.

2.5 Incidents of non-compliance in which the organization was determined not to be at fault are not counted in this Indicator.

2.6 Report the total number of incidents of non-compliance with the health and safety of products and services, broken down by:

- Incidents of non-compliance with regulations resulting in a fine or penalty;
- Incidents of non-compliance with regulations resulting in a warning; and
- Incidents of non-compliance with voluntary codes.

3. Definitions

None.

4. Documentation

Potential information sources include the reporting organization’s legal and R&D departments as well as documentation collected through quality management systems.

5. References

None.
**PR3** Type of product and service information required by procedures, and percentage of significant products and services subject to such information requirements

1. **Relevance**

Accessible and adequate information on the sustainability impacts of products and services (positive and negative) is necessary for customers and end users to make informed purchasing choices, and for these preferences to be reflected in the market. Providing appropriate information and labeling with respect to sustainability impacts is directly linked to compliance with certain types of regulations and codes (such as national laws or the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises) and, potentially, with strategies for brand and market differentiation. This measure provides an indication of the degree to which information and labeling addresses a product’s or a service’s impact on sustainability.

2. **Compilation**

2.1 Report whether the following product and service information is required by the organization’s procedures for product and service information and labeling:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information</th>
<th>yes</th>
<th>no</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The sourcing of components of the product or service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content, particularly with regard to substances that might produce an environmental or social impact</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe use of the product or service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposal of the product and environmental/social impacts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (explain)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2 Report the percentage of significant product or service categories covered by and assessed for compliance with such procedures.

3. **Definitions**

None.

4. **Documentation**

Potential information sources include legal and sales departments and the documentation collected through quality management systems.

5. **References**

PR4 Total number of incidents of non-compliance with regulations and voluntary codes concerning product and service information and labeling, by type of outcomes

1. Relevance
The display and provision of information and labeling for products and services are subject to many regulations and laws. Non-compliance indicates either inadequate internal management systems and procedures or ineffective implementation. In addition to direct financial consequences, such as penalties and fines, non-compliance poses a risk to reputation and customer loyalty and satisfaction. An organization’s incidents of non-compliance should remain as low as possible. The trends revealed by this Indicator can indicate improvements or deterioration in the effectiveness of internal controls.

2. Compilation
2.1 This Indicator refers to incidents of non-compliance decided within the reporting period. If a substantial number of incidents relate to events in preceding years, this should be indicated.

2.2 Where the reporting organization has not identified any non-compliance with regulations and voluntary codes, a brief statement to this fact is sufficient.

2.3 Identify the total number of incidents of non-compliance with regulations and voluntary codes concerning product and service information and labeling during the reporting period.

2.4 Incidents of non-compliance in which the organization was determined not to be at fault are not counted in this Indicator.

2.5 Report the total number of incidents of non-compliance with regulations concerning product and service information and labeling, broken down by:

- Incidents of non-compliance with regulations resulting in a fine or penalty;
- Incidents of non-compliance with regulations resulting in a warning; and
- Incidents of non-compliance with voluntary codes.

3. Definitions
None.

4. Documentation
Potential information sources include the reporting organization’s legal and technical departments as well as documentation collected through quality management systems.

5. References
None.
**PR5** Practices related to customer satisfaction, including results of surveys measuring customer satisfaction

1. **Relevance**

Customer satisfaction is one measure of an organization’s sensitivity to its customers’ needs and, from an organizational perspective, is essential for long-term success. In the context of sustainability, customer satisfaction provides insight into how the organization approaches its relationship with one stakeholder group (customers). It can also be used in combination with other sustainability measures. Used in combination, customer satisfaction can provide insights into the degree to which an organization considers the needs of other stakeholders.

2. **Compilation**

2.1 Report on organization-wide practices in place to assess and maintain customer satisfaction, such as:

- Frequency of measuring customer satisfaction;
- Standard requirements regarding methodologies of surveys; and
- Mechanisms for customers to provide feedback.

2.2 Report the results or key conclusions of surveys (based on statistically relevant sample sizes) conducted in the reporting period that were related to information about:

- The organization as a whole;
- A major product/service category; or
- Significant locations of operation.

2.3 For any survey results reported, identify the product/service category or locations of operations to which they apply.

3. **Definitions**

None.

4. **Documentation**

Potential information sources include the reporting organization’s customer relations and R&D departments.

5. **References**

None.
PR6 Programs for adherence to laws, standards, and voluntary codes related to fundraising and marketing communications, including advertising, promotion, and sponsorship

1. Relevance

Fundraising and marketing communications are designed to generate funds, influence opinions and purchasing decisions. Fundraising and marketing communications that do not conform to generally accepted ethical or cultural standards, privacy intrusion, dual standards, or attempts to influence vulnerable audiences such as children, can be a significant issue for stakeholders, as shown by the growth of consumer activism. Fundraising and marketing approaches that are seen as inappropriate can incur risks for organizations, including alienation of supporters, members, donors, service users, customers and other stakeholders, damage to reputation, financial costs, and legislative action.

In addition to frameworks of national or international law, voluntary and self-regulatory codes (such as the ICC International Code of Advertising Practice or the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises) seek to express concepts of responsibility in fundraising and marketing communications. The adoption of such self-disciplinary codes or rules can assist organizations in ensuring that their fundraising and marketing communications practices conform to generally accepted standards.

The Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health recognizes that the global burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) has rapidly increased and that unhealthy diets and a lack of physical activity are among the leading causes of the major NCDs, including cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and certain types of cancer.

The increased consumption of energy-dense, nutrient-poor foods that are high in fat, sugar and sodium is identified as a risk factor. Food marketing affects food choices and influences dietary habits, especially of vulnerable groups such as expectant and new mothers, children, teenagers and disadvantaged people.

2. Compilation

2.1 Report any codes or voluntary standards relating to fundraising and marketing communication applied across the organization.

2.2 Report the frequency with which the organization reviews its compliance with these standards or codes.

2.3 Report whether the organization sells products that are:
   - Banned in certain markets; or
   - The subject of stakeholder questions or public debate.

2.4 Report how the organization has responded to questions or concerns regarding these products.

2.5 Report the number of complaints of breaches of standards for fundraising and marketing communication practices in relation to the rights of affected stakeholders, and actions taken. For example, this may refer to inappropriate use of images of women, poor communities, or other forms of communication.

2.6 Report on complaints of breaches of standards for fundraising and marketing communications practices in relation to the rights of donors.

3. Definitions

None.

4. Documentation

Potential information sources include the reporting organization's legal, sales, and marketing departments.

5. References

- International Chamber of Commerce recommendations (i.e., the ICC International Code of Advertising Practice) and related codes of conduct.
PR7 Total number of incidents of non-compliance with regulations and voluntary codes concerning marketing communications, including advertising, promotion, and sponsorship, by type of outcomes

1. Relevance
Non-compliance indicates either inadequate internal management systems and procedures or ineffective implementation. In addition to direct financial consequences such as penalties and fines, non-compliance poses a risk to reputation and customer loyalty and satisfaction. An organization’s incidents of non-compliance should remain as low as possible. The trends revealed by this Indicator can indicate improvements or deterioration in the effectiveness of internal controls.

2. Compilation
2.1 This Indicator refers to incidents of non-compliance within the reporting period. If a substantial number of incidents relate to events in preceding years, this should be indicated.

2.2 Where the reporting organization has not identified any non-compliance with regulations and voluntary codes, a brief statement to this fact is sufficient.

2.3 Identify the total number of incidents of non-compliance with regulations concerning marketing communications during the reporting period.

2.4 Incidents of non-compliance in which the organization was determined not to be at fault are not counted in this Indicator.

2.5 Report the total number of incidents of non-compliance with regulations concerning marketing communications, broken down by:

- Incidents of non-compliance with regulations resulting in a fine or penalty;
- Incidents of non-compliance with regulations resulting in a warning; and
- Incidents of non-compliance with voluntary codes.

3. Definitions
None.

4. Documentation
Potential information sources include the reporting organization’s legal, sales, and marketing departments.

5. References
None.
**PR8 Total number of substantiated complaints regarding breaches of customer privacy and losses of customer data**

1. **Relevance**

Protection of customer privacy is a generally recognized goal in national regulations and organizational policies. Non-compliance indicates either inadequate internal management systems and procedures or ineffective implementation. This Indicator provides an evaluation of the success of management systems and procedures relating to customer privacy protection. In addition to direct financial consequences such as penalties and fines, non-compliance poses a risk to reputation and customer loyalty and satisfaction. An organization’s incidents of non-compliance should remain as low as possible. The trends revealed by this Indicator can indicate improvements or deterioration in the effectiveness of internal controls.

2. **Compilation**

2.1 Identify the total number of complaints regarding breaches of customer privacy during the reporting period.

2.2 If a substantial number of these breaches relate to events in preceding years, this should be indicated.

2.3 Report the total number of substantiated complaints received concerning breaches of customer privacy, categorized by:

- Complaints received from outside parties and substantiated by the organization; and
- Complaints from regulatory bodies.

2.4 Report the total number of identified leaks, thefts, or losses of customer data.

2.5 Where the reporting organization has not identified any substantiated complaints, a brief statement to this fact is sufficient.

3. **Definitions**

**Breach of customer privacy**

Covers any non-compliance with existing legal regulations and (voluntary) standards of which the reporting organization is a member regarding the protection of customer privacy.

**Substantiated complaint**

Written statement by regulatory or similar official body addressed to the reporting organization that identifies breaches of customer privacy, or a complaint lodged with the organization that has been recognized as legitimate by the organization.

4. **Documentation**

Information can be drawn from departments responsible for customer service, public relations, and/or legal concerns.

5. **References**

None.
PR9 Monetary value of significant fines for non-compliance with laws and regulations concerning the provision and use of products and services

1. Relevance
The level of non-compliance within an organization is an indicator of the ability of management to ensure that operations conform to certain performance parameters. From an economic perspective, ensuring compliance helps to reduce financial risks that occur either directly through fines or indirectly through impacts on reputation. The strength of an organization’s compliance record can also affect its ability to expand operations or gain permits.

2. Compilation
2.1 Identify administrative or judicial sanctions levied against the organization for failure to comply with laws or regulations, including international declarations/conventions/treaties, and national, sub-national, regional, and local regulations concerning the provision and use of the reporting organization’s products and services. Relevant information for this Indicator includes but is not limited to data from PR2, PR4, and PR7.

2.2 Report total monetary value of significant fines.

2.3 Where the reporting organization has not identified any non-compliance with laws or regulations, a brief statement to this fact is sufficient.

3. Definitions
None.

4. Documentation
Data sources include audit results or regulatory tracking systems operated by the legal department. Information regarding monetary fines can be found in accounting departments.

5. References
None.