



2020/2021 Annual Report: Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights

Statement of commitment or endorsement of the Voluntary Principles

IMPACT is committed to promoting the implementation of the Voluntary Principles internationally and believes that the Voluntary Principles can help promote multistakeholder dialogue and problem-solving between governments, companies, civil society organizations and local communities impacted by extractive sector operations. Furthermore, we believe that the VPs provide a solid basis upon which oil, gas and mining companies can implement effective policies and systems to minimize the risk of contributing to human rights violations. Like all multistakeholder processes, IMPACT believes that the Voluntary Principles must continue to progress and evolve in order to maintain its relevance and demonstrate the positive impact it can have.

Relevant policies, procedures, and guidelines to implement the Voluntary Principles

IMPACT adopted and operationalized a new security management system in 2018, which includes site assessments, incident reporting, and various tools for staff, amongst other components. IMPACT also updated its Code of Conduct, adopted a Workplace Violence and Harassment Policy and adopted a draft Conflict of Interest Policy and a draft Safeguarding Policy. Also, on 15th October 2018, IMPACT signed on to the Canadian Council for International Co-operation's (CCIC) Leaders' Pledge on Preventing and Addressing Sexual Misconduct.

IMPACT's Just Gold project in DR Congo and Ivory Coast endeavors to introduce supply chain due diligence and transparency in the artisanal gold sector to identify and address human rights and corruption risks.

Integrating the VPs into IMPACT's security management

While the VPs were first designed for oil, gas and mining companies, as an NGO working in high-risk areas and making use of private security personnel, IMPACT has drawn from the IGT for the Voluntary Principles in its own implementation of effective security management policies and processes. While IMPACT makes use of a very small number of unarmed, private security personnel at its local offices in the DRC and Cote d'Ivoire, we believe it is important to ensure that these personnel abide by IMPACT's policies and procedures, and will continue to receive briefings on these accordingly.

Examples of promoting awareness of the Voluntary Principles throughout the organization

IMPACT regularly holds internal information sessions for staff in order to ensure that they are aware of IMPACT's role in the VPs. IMPACT also holds regular staff meetings to share information across the organization's different focus areas (Regulatory and Legal Reform; Supply Chain Transparency; Illicit Trade and Financing; Gender Equality; and Environmental Stewardship). The VPs are included in these discussions, as IMPACT identifies ways in which it can incorporate the VPs, both process and principles, in its existing programming.

Promoting and advancing awareness or implementation of the Voluntary Principles internationally

Due to human resources constraints, IMPACT was unable to organize events or activities directly related to the VPs internationally. However, throughout the course of the year, IMPACT has participated in a number of conference calls with its fellow NGO members of the VPs to discuss pertinent issues and guide the NGO pillars decision-making.

Engagements with stakeholders on country implementation

IMPACT has limited ability to participate in engagements with stakeholders on country implementation due to limited resources. We regularly participate in VPs meetings hosted by VPI member governments in Kinshasa (DRC), and our staff members also participated in a sensitization session held by DCAF in Bunia (DRC). IMPACT served as a peer reviewer for the verification presentation of Glencore, which focused on its operations in the DRC.

Implementation of the VPI Gender and Vulnerable Groups Project

In early 2021, IMPACT and Stratos have begun to implement a project on behalf of the VPI to undertake analysis relating to the implementation of the VPSHR that is sensitive to gender considerations and the unique human rights risks faced by vulnerable groups, including Indigenous peoples. The outcome of this work will be new and/or updated tools and guidance to help Members and others implement the VPSHR in a manner that considers and responds to the unique needs of vulnerable groups.

Lessons or issues from this reporting year, as well as plans or opportunities to advance the Voluntary Principles for the organization

IMPACT continues to scale up its work in Central and West Africa, which focus significantly on artisanal and small-scale mining, certification and due diligence, gender and mining as well as broader governance issues related to extractives. This includes new projects in Burkina Faso, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. IMPACT will use these opportunities to more thoroughly assess if and how we may be able to further integrate promotion and/or implementation of the VPs with the various stakeholders we work with in this region, as well as at the level of our field operations in a number of countries.