



VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Commitment to the Voluntary Principles

1 The Fund for Peace (FFP) remains active within the VPSHR participating regularly in all monthly NGO Pillar meetings/calls as well as corporate and government verification meetings. FFP President and Executive Director, Paul Turner, Programs Director Emily Sample and Senior Advisor Perin Arkun attended the 2024 Annual Plenary meeting held in Washington, D.C. The Ghana ICWG co-chair and FFP Programs Manager Christopher Nyarko also attended the 2024 Annual Plenary, sharing insights on how the ICWG has successfully operationalized the VPs in Ghana. In addition, FFP staff participated in several Steering Committee meetings focusing on governance structure changes ahead of the 2024 Plenary. FFP continued to co-chair the Ghana In-Country Working Group (ICWG) throughout the year. Senior Advisor Perin Arkun supported the ICWG's activities as the FFP staff representative from headquarters.

2 FFP continues to feature the VPSHR prominently on its website (www.fundforpeace.org), making its Annual Report to the VPI publicly available. FFP provides extensive information and reporting on its ongoing implementation of the ICWG activities in Ghana, hosted on a dedicated website at www.ghanavps.org. In 2024, FFP regularly publicized the VPSHR in lectures and panel discussions related to issues such as corporations operating in conflict-sensitive areas; conflict and human rights impact assessments; and multisectoral collaboration and partnerships.

3 Similar to previous years, in 2024 FFP engaged with other participants of the VPI to better understand challenges and lessons learned. A major component of this engagement is the Human Rights & Business Roundtable (HRBRT). During the reporting period, the HRBRT continued to serve as a resource for corporations, NGOs, and governments to work and learn together to promote human rights, good corporate practices, and sustainable development. The accessibility of virtual meeting platforms made it easier for the Roundtable to engage with panelists and stakeholders around the world who would never have been able to travel for in-person events. This created a broader pool of expertise and participants that FFP engaged with on both the forums and the publicization of the VPSHR. HRBRT's 2024 corporate members are Chevron, ExxonMobil and Freeport-McMoRan. There are also an additional seven companies that are non-dues-paying members participating in Roundtable events. FFP continues to actively engage companies and corporations to expand the HRBRT membership base. Panelists and partners at Roundtables included ExxonMobil, Karamoja Women's Cultural Group and the Ghana ICWG. FFP held bilateral discussions with representatives from



Rio Tinto and conducted outreach to AngloGold Ashanti, Newmont and Tullow Oil to discuss potential trainings and risk assessments.

Procedures

- 4 FFP President and Executive Director, Paul Turner, served as a reviewer in the Vale S.A. verification presentation on September 19, 2024. The review sparked a rich exchange and remains a key function of the VPSHR, fostering continuous improvement among all members and promoting the sharing of good practices.

Promotion of the Voluntary Principles

- 5 As in previous years, FFP continued to promote the VPSHR directly with companies who are not currently VPSHR participants at both the project and corporate level. FFP has discussed the potential for creating VPSHR-style mandates with media and technology companies for their own industries. Beyond meeting with various interested stakeholders one-on-one, FFP frequently publicizes the VPSHR in lectures and panel discussions, as outlined above.

- 6 Through the Ghana ICWG, FFP has engaged directly with local communities and civil society organizations throughout the country. FFP has worked closely with local civil society organizations, including our program partner WANEP-Ghana, as well as other relevant organizations such as Wassa Association of Communities Affected by Mining (WACAM) and the Centre for Social Impact Studies (CeSIS). FFP has identified an additional three civil society organizations that are now members of the NGO Pillar of the Ghana ICWG. They are NORPAM, Friends of the Nation, and Africa Center for Energy Policy (ACEP). FFP leverages opportunities to raise awareness and promote understanding of the Voluntary Principles and their importance on panels it has hosted and participated in as relevant. For example, FFP's ICWG representative and co-chair participated in a panel discussion on *Hybrid Security Arrangements in the Extractive Sector* at a regional conference in Nigeria, titled "*Enhancing Parliamentary Oversight in Tackling Private and Hybrid Security in West Africa*." He shared civil society's perspective on the issue highlighting the important role of the Voluntary Principles within the broader security landscape.

- 7 Through our frequent engagement with VPI member and non-member companies and governments, FFP encourages the adoption and implementation of the VPSHR in policies and practices. FFP works directly with the US government, as well as other government agencies like the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and European Investment Bank (EIB) to build business and human rights processes into all projects.



In some programs, FFP assesses the effectiveness of that implementation and provides assistance and guidance for improvement. When appropriate, FFP has worked closely with non-member government agencies and corporations through risk assessments to develop guidance on the use of security forces.

Country Implementation

8. FFP's efforts to strengthen the rule of law in countries around the world stretches far beyond its efforts related to the VPSHR. FFP's continued work in Ghana has focused heavily on the security sector, particularly the police and military and their respect for human rights and the rule of law. In 2024, working through the ICWG, FFP facilitated a training for 150 police officers on the VPSHR as part of its efforts to engage public security in Ghana. Additionally, FFP continues its work in Nigeria with Chevron, through the PIND Foundation, to promote sustainable peace and development, inclusive of rule of law and democracy. In partnership with Chevron, we are working on incorporating the VPSHR principles into the ideas of peace impact investing.

9. FFP has undertaken several risk assessments funded by multilateral banks to analyze and provide recommendations for protecting human rights. As we work globally, we are able to broadly apply our research expertise, with specific focus on fragile contexts.

10. FFP worked closely with the Ghana ICWG to recommend policies and procedures in line with the VPSHR. We also collaborated with the ICWG to support the principles during government transitions and made concerted efforts to expand the Working Group's member base in Ghana. In consultations with non-member corporations, multilateral banks, or governments, FFP has worked to align the policy recommendations to the VPSHR.

11. FFP follows a model of close consultation with companies, and as such respects the confidentiality of such processes. Assessments and recommendations for operational improvement center around the implementation of the VPSHR. FFP continues to consult regularly with various companies — both members of the VPI and non-members alike — to discuss security sector challenges and consider strategies for improvement.

12. Through the Human Rights and Business Roundtable program, FFP works with industry and civil society who are part of the VPI to discuss current issues, lessons learned, and best practices. For example, in 2024, one important topic that was addressed in the Roundtable focused on how land-intensive industries can work with Indigenous communities to build and maintain their social license



to operate. Through these dialogues, the participants publicly highlight their practices upholding the values of the VPSHR. Furthermore, the Human Rights and Business Roundtable space allows audience members to connect directly with corporations, civil society, and government officials to hold them accountable. Moreover, as part of its ongoing efforts to hold Voluntary Principles members accountable for upholding their commitments to the VPSHR, the Ghana ICWG co-chairs conducted two site visits to AngloGold Ashanti and Newmont mining concessions in late 2024 to monitor compliance with the VPs at the respective company sites.