DANCHURCHAID

actalliance



Recommendations for

BUILDING RIGHTS-CENTRED AND RESILIENT SUPPLY CHAINS BEYOND COMPLIANCE

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Make Rights-Holder Engagement a Requirement

Why

Effective human rights and environmental due diligence should be informed by the perspectives of affected rights-holders. Meaningful engagement helps organisations identify actual and potential impacts, understand local contexts and improve decision-making. Experience across sectors shows that risks can often be identified earlier and addressed more effectively when rights holders are recognised as active participants in decision-making.

How

Businesses, investors and public authorities should engage rights-holders early and throughout the investment and operational cycle, demonstrate how feedback influences decisions, and ensure the meaningful inclusion of underrepresented groups, particularly women, youth, workers, Indigenous Peoples and affected communities.

2) Prioritise Due Diligence Where Risks Are Highest

Why

The UNGPs and OECD Guidelines endorse a risk-based approach to due diligence, recognising that resources should be directed towards situations where the risks to people and the environment are most severe. Prioritising high-risk sectors and contexts helps organisations prevent the most serious harms and allocate attention where it can have the greatest impact.

How

Businesses and investors should adapt due diligence to the context and severity of risks, incorporating deeper local analysis, meaningful stakeholder engagement, and more robust prevention, mitigation and remedy measures where needed.

3) Invest in Accountability and Access to Remedy

Why

Effective implementation and access to remedy often depend on trusted local institutions and actors that understand the social, cultural and political context. Strengthening local capacity can help translate international standards into meaningful outcomes for affected stakeholders.

How

Public institutions and businesses must improve accountability and access to remedy through grievance and complaint mechanisms that are accessible, trusted, understandable and adapted to local contexts, while supporting the actors who help rights-holders seek remedy and raise concerns, such as civil society organisations, trade unions, or national human rights institutions.

4) Treat Responsible Business Conduct as a Core Business and Investment Function

Why

Responsible business conduct is a long-term investment that helps businesses manage environmental and human rights risks, strengthen resilience and build trust. When embedded into core business functions, it can enhance competitiveness, workforce stability, market access and investor confidence.

How

Businesses should embed environmental and human rights due diligence into governance, investment, procurement and operational decision-making, ensuring that due diligence findings inform business strategy, risk management and performance monitoring.

5) Invest in Collaboration to Bridge Implementation Gaps

Why

Many environmental and human rights challenges cannot be addressed effectively by individual actors acting alone. Collaborative approaches can provide the legitimacy, local knowledge, influence and implementation capacity needed to address systemic risks and close implementation gaps.

How

Multistakeholder platforms, sector-wide initiatives, peer-learning initiatives and partnerships can bring together businesses, governments, rights-holders and civil society to address systemic solutions. Attention should be given to supporting locally trusted actors that strengthen accountability, participation and dialogue.

6) Link Responsible Business Conduct to Economic Transformation and Climate Investments

Why

Responsible business conduct is a critical enabler of inclusive and sustainable economic transformation. As investment in climate action, infrastructure and the green transition grows, it helps ensure that economic opportunities, benefits and risks are managed fairly, contributing to resilient development outcomes for workers, communities, consumers and the environment.

How

Public and private investors should embed responsible business conduct into climate, infrastructure and economic transformation initiatives from the outset, integrating due diligence, stakeholder participation and strong governance to support a just transition that delivers shared benefits.

READ THE FULL REPORT

These recommendations are derived from the report “Beyond Compliance: Building Rights-Centred and Resilient Supply Chains in East & Horn of Africa”, which is accessible through the QR code below.

The report brings together insights from DanChurchAid (DCA) and other practitioners’ work to advance responsible business conduct and business and human rights in East and Horn of Africa. Building on discussions from the 2026 East & Horn of Africa Business and Human Rights Dialogue in Nairobi, it explores challenges and opportunities related to land-based investments, supply chains, and inclusive economic development. Against a backdrop of evolving due diligence requirements and responsible investment expectations, the publication highlights how context-sensitive due diligence, meaningful rights-holder engagement and locally adapted remedy mechanisms can help prevent harm while strengthening business resilience and development outcomes.

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