Request for Expressions of Interest: Technical Partner for Integrating Evidence Indicators in a Child Labour Risk Index.

The Centre for Child Rights and Business and Save the Children Germany is looking for a technical partner in the development of a joint initiative to establish a Supply Chain Child Labour Risk Index.

About us

For over 14 years, The Centre has worked directly with businesses to promote and protect children's rights within global supply chains. As a leading organization in the field, we provide tailored solutions, expert guidance, and actionable tools to help companies identify and address child labour risks, implement family-friendly workplace practices, and meet their human rights due diligence obligations. By partnering with businesses, public partners, international organizations, and civil society we work to drive responsible business practices that achieve positive outcomes for children, families, and communities across Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas.

Save the Children is with over 100 years of expertise, the world's first and leading independent children's organization. We believe every child deserves a future and do whatever it takes – every day and in times of crisis – so children can fulfil their rights to a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. With more than 25,000 dedicated staff across more than 110 countries, we respond rapidly to humanitarian emergencies, deliver innovative development programmes, and ensure children's voices are heard through our advocacy and campaigning to build a better future for and with children. We engage the private sector to fulfil its role in protecting children's rights in line with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights as well as the globally growing number of supply chain laws and regulations.

Objective

The Index is designed as an open-source online resource, aimed at providing businesses with reliable data on child labour risks to enable prioritization of due diligence activities that ultimately protect children's rights in global supply chains. The index will combine a risk score and gather valued but often overlooked evidence by leveraging web-scanning and machine learning technology to collect and summarise relevant reports for child labour. The Index will serve as a catalyst for ethical business practices, helping companies make informed decisions while advancing the global agenda for children's rights.

Background

The Index is intended to help companies identify, assess, and mitigate the risks of child labour within their supply chains, in response to growing regulatory demands, particularly Germany's Supply Chain Due Diligence Law (LkSG) and the EU's Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD). The Index will combine a risk score calculated using publicly available data and evidence indications based on reported cases in news articles, literature, and other relevant sources. We are looking for a partner that has the capabilities to provide a tech solution to automate the search, analysis and categorization of inputs that will provide evidence indicators, including, where possible, web scraping capabilities and tool/s that leverage machine learning technologies.

Partner Specification

The ideal partner will work with The Centre and Save the Children to promote and protect children's rights in global supply chains by providing a technological/software solution to generate the evidence indicators to contextualize the Index Score. In particular, we are looking for partners who:

- Have extensive experience in and produced products using web scanning, and ideally, machine learning
- Programming and technical abilities to provide an API or simple public user interface
- Ideally have worked on projects linked to supply chain human rights due diligence.
- Due to the non-profit nature of our organizations, we would appreciate proposals for non-financial partnerships or proposals where costs are kept to a minimum.

Solution Specification

We are open to the technical design of the solution, but are looking for solutions which provide the following features:

- Contains a web-scanning function to gather data points in the form of news or research articles and provides evidence indicators.
- Leverages machine learning.
- Calculates Index scores based on a formula provided by The Centre (optional)
- Provides the web interface for the Index results to be made public to the internet by providing the appropriate technology and security (optional).

Additional Considerations:

1. The child labour risk will be calculated at a country-level, or in the case of larger states it will be disaggregated down to a regional level. Special attention may be paid to certain sectors.
2. Only sources from within the last 5 years will be used. This element will indicate both a summary of what regions, topics, people (e.g. industries, vulnerable peoples, the content of precarious labour situations (hazardous work, child labour, night work, etc.) have been mentioned on sources on the internet and create a list of links to the specific reports.
3. The Index will be updated on either a quarterly (max), half-yearly or annual basis (min).
4. Links to relevant articles identified through scanning should be provided on the index scorecard for users to review.
5. All sources must be publicly available information and free from limitations of use.

How to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI)

Please confirm your interest in partnering no later than **Friday, 24th January** to Jazz Smith-Khaira at jazz.smithkhaira@childrights-business.org. We welcome offers from organizations who are able to partner on an in-kind basis. Please include the following components in your Expression of Interest (EOI):

1. A technical overview of how your product/services will allow or contribute to the development of the index. (max 2 pages)
2. A brief description of how operations, maintenance and support of the software is provided or could be covered for three years. (max 1 page)
3. A summary of previous relevant and/or similar projects you have worked on. (max 1 page)
4. An estimated timeline for delivering the technical solution. (max ½ page)
5. Details of preferred partnership modality including estimated costs (if any) and details of in-kind support (e.g., number of team members and/or working hours). (max ½ page)

Please note as we are at an early stage of the development of this project, we do not require a full proposal but ask that any cost estimations are realistic.