

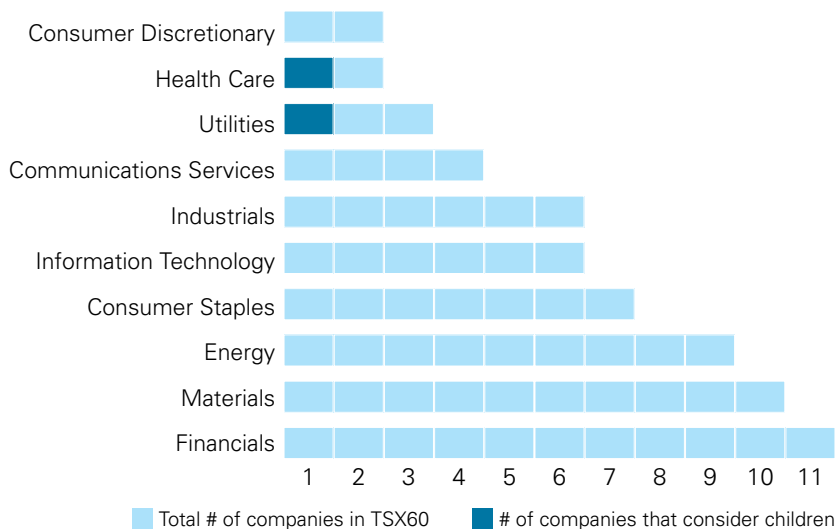


Principle 9: Help Protect Children affected by Emergencies

Children are disproportionately affected by emergencies, currently making up half of all refugees and 40 per cent of people internally displaced by conflict. UNICEF estimates that more than 500 million children now live in areas with extremely high flood occurrence, and almost 160 million in areas with high drought severity.

Emergency situations significantly affect children's rights by making children more susceptible to disease, malnutrition, exploitation and violence. Children with disabilities; displaced, migrant, separated and unaccompanied children; and indigenous or ethnic minority children are among those who will be the most vulnerable. The consequences of natural disasters are particularly severe for children, who might be separated from their families and exploited more readily because of their vulnerability. Companies that operate in emergency contexts must recognize these heightened risks of children's rights violations. Business should ensure that assistance for children is carried out in coordination with government and international humanitarian organisations, and that the rights of children, their families and communities are addressed in contingency planning and remediation activities.

TSX60 Companies that Consider Children in Relation to Emergencies



Good Practice Examples

- **Great Panther Mining** is a Canadian gold and silver mining company with operations in Brazil, Mexico and Peru. In Brazil, they hold *local emergency drills to educate residents about evacuation procedures* in the event of a tailings dam failure. Educational assemblies in public schools teach children age 7 to 15 about mine operation and safety. Students also received a 15-page comic book that detailed tailing mine emergency procedures in an informative, reassuring way.

Relevant Frameworks



Global Compact
Network Canada

- **Principle 8:** Businesses should undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility



- **1.5** Reduce the exposure and vulnerability of the poor and vulnerable to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters
- **11.5** Reduce the number of people affected by disasters, with a focus on the poor and people in vulnerable situations
- **13.1** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries



The Canadian Index of
Child and Youth Well-being

- Being affected by a disaster
- Being environmentally aware
- Having polluted air
- Having safe drinking water