



VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Commitment to the Voluntary Principles

1 FFP remains active within the VPSHR, as a member of the VPSHR Association (VPA) Board of Directors since 2016 (after previously having served from 2011-2015). After chairing the NGO Pillar for most of its existence, including 2017-2020, during 2023, FFP remained engaged as a member attending Pillar meetings and both corporate and government verification meetings. FFP Programs Director Dr. Emily Sample attended the 2022 Plenary Session in London, as well as the VPSHR Steering Committee meeting in Geneva. FFP also co-chaired the Ghana In-Country Working Group (ICWG). Programs Director Wendy Wilson supported the ICWG as the FFP staff representative. FFP is committed to building future leaders in the human rights and business space, including mentoring research assistants in this area.

2 FFP continues to feature the VPSHR prominently on its website (www.fundforpeace.org), wherein FFP also makes publicly available its Annual Report to the VPI. FFP also provides extensive information and reporting on its ongoing implementation ICWG in Ghana, hosted on a dedicated website at www.ghanavps.org. Further, in 2023, FFP frequently 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 As with previous years, in 2023 FFP engaged with other participants of the VPI to better understand challenges and lessons learned. A major pillar 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. Panelists and partners at Roundtables included Chevron, Foundation for Partnership Initiative in the Niger Delta (PIND), Bechtel, Total Impact Capital, Deseret Media Company, Paul Hastings LLP, and US Government Agencies. FFP met bilaterally with representatives from Shell, Rio Tinto, Glencore, Anglo American, and Newmont to discuss trainings and risk assessments.



Procedures

4 Programs Director Wendy Wilson moderated the training discussion on “IGT Companion Tool - Operationalizing the VPs Through the Lens of Protecting the Rights of Women and Other Disadvantaged Groups” on November 9, 2023. President & Executive Director Paul Turner participated as a panelist on the Government of Australia Verification Presentation on November 15, 2023. FFP attended and participated in the country and corporate processes for vetting new members to provide peer review and support of VPSHR growth and implementation. FFP remains supportive of the investigation and initiation of further ICWG, as discussed during the Steering Committee meeting.

Promotion of the Voluntary Principles

5 As in previous years, FFP has promoted the VPSHR directly with companies who are not currently VPSHR participants at both the project and corporate level. FFP works with members of land-intensive industries and companies outside the current VPSHR scope to review human rights issues in their supply chain, as well as their effect on human rights issues. Further, FFP has discussed the potential for creating VPSHR-style mandates with media and technology companies for their own industries. In 2023, FFP began working with the PIND Foundation on a new Peace Investment Initiative that would help to bring sustainable development to the Niger Delta through sustainable funding and business investment. This project is aligned with the core values of the VPSHR and reflective of human rights and business best practice. Beyond meeting with various interested stakeholders one-on-one, FFP frequently publicizes the VPSHR in lectures and panel discussions, as outlined above.

6 Through our work with WANEP-Ghana and 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 partners WANEP-Ghana, as well as other relevant organizations such as Wassa Communities Affected by Mining (WACAM), Youth on Board Africa (YOBA), and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KA IPTC). Further, FFP has discussed the importance of the VPSHR on panels it has hosted and sat on about business and human rights with other civil society members, and will large civil society audiences.

7 Through our frequent engagement with VPI member and nonmember companies and governments, FFP encourages the adoption and implementation of the VPSHR in policies and practices. The 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



together. In some programs, FFP assesses the effectiveness of that implementation and provides assistance and guidance for improvement. FFP has worked directly with VPI corporate members to prepare risk briefs on security and human rights in different sites. More broadly, 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. Additionally, FFP continues its work with Nigeria and Chevron, through the PIND Foundation, to promote sustainable peace and development, inclusive of rule of law and democracy.

9. FFP has undertaken several risk assessments funded by both corporations and 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 WANEP-Ghana co-leading the Ghana ICWG to recommend policies and procedures in line with the VPSHR. 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. 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.