


Project title (Acronym)	Renewable Energy and Human Rights Benchmark
LA/CSO (type)	CSO
Implementing Partner(s)	Business and Human Rights Centre (BHRC)
Country/countries, region	Worldwide/Global
Budget (specify EU funding amount, if applicable)	N/A
Is it a Global Gateway project?	No
Funding modality	N/A
Funding sources	Various
Implementation period	It was first published in June 2020 and is updated approximately every two years, with four editions to date
Thematic development area (5 words)	Human Rights and Just Energy Transition 
Short description, including target beneficiaries and their engagement/reactions thus far (300 words)	<p>The Renewable Energy and Human Rights Benchmark aims to drive a race to the top among renewable energy companies on human rights in the context of an urgent need for climate action. The 2025 Benchmark assessed 35 of the world’s largest renewable energy companies on their human rights policies and practices.</p> <p>The benchmark supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investors to use their leverage through stewardship, investment practices and policy engagement to help embed human rights in renewable energy. • Companies to embed human rights due diligence in their operations and value chains and respond to salient sector risks. • Governments to create a level playing field or companies incl. through human rights due diligence policy and regulation and business incentives. • Civil society to hold companies accountable for human rights abuses. <p>Key findings of the 2025 Benchmark:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wind and solar energy companies made progress on core human rights policies and practices in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. 2. Scores remain very low on salient human rights issues including land and resource rights, Indigenous Peoples’ and affected communities’ rights including benefit sharing, responsible mineral sourcing, and protecting human rights defenders. 3. Project developers in the utility sector based in Europe continue to lead the pack, especially on core human

	<p>rights policies and practices in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. No company in the Benchmark currently publicly discloses its full solar supply chain, which is a critical element in responding to risk of exposure to the severe issue of forced labour. 5. Oil and gas companies performed particularly poorly on share of capital expenditure for a low-carbon transition and climate emissions targets. This is reflective of less ambitious emission targets and a recent refocus on oil and gas development.
<p>Lessons learnt, key messages and results relevant for future EU programming (300 words)</p>	<p>Despite some encouraging progress documented in the 2025 Benchmark, critical gaps remain on the most salient human rights risks.</p> <p>Respect for Indigenous Peoples’ rights continues to be an area of serious concern. The renewable energy sector has faced a significant number of allegations of abuse linked to Indigenous Peoples’ rights, reflecting the high potential for conflict when these rights are not respected. Central to this is the right to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), a cornerstone of Indigenous rights under international law, which remains almost entirely absent from company practice: only one company has adopted a clear FPIC policy.</p> <p>Companies have made an encouraging start on shared prosperity through benefit-sharing – but this needs to translate into achieving the needs and aspirations of communities. While there has been clear improvement on meaningful engagement with communities, companies must make progress on benefit sharing agreements that will see tangible results for communities.</p> <p>The renewable energy industry stands at a crossroads: it is not only building the infrastructure of the future global energy system, but has the potential to contribute to a fairer global economic order and shared prosperity in the energy transition. Realising that potential requires companies to move beyond baseline policy compliance and demonstrate genuine respect for the rights of Indigenous Peoples, communities, and workers on whom a fast and just transition depends.</p>
<p>Replicability (100 words)</p>	<p>N/A</p>