

RESEARCH AGENDA

About Valuing Respect

Valuing Respect is a global collaborative platform, led by Shift, to research and co-create better ways of evaluating business respect for human rights. Over the next three years, we aim to develop tools and insights that can help both companies and their stakeholders focus their resources on actions that effectively improve outcomes for people.

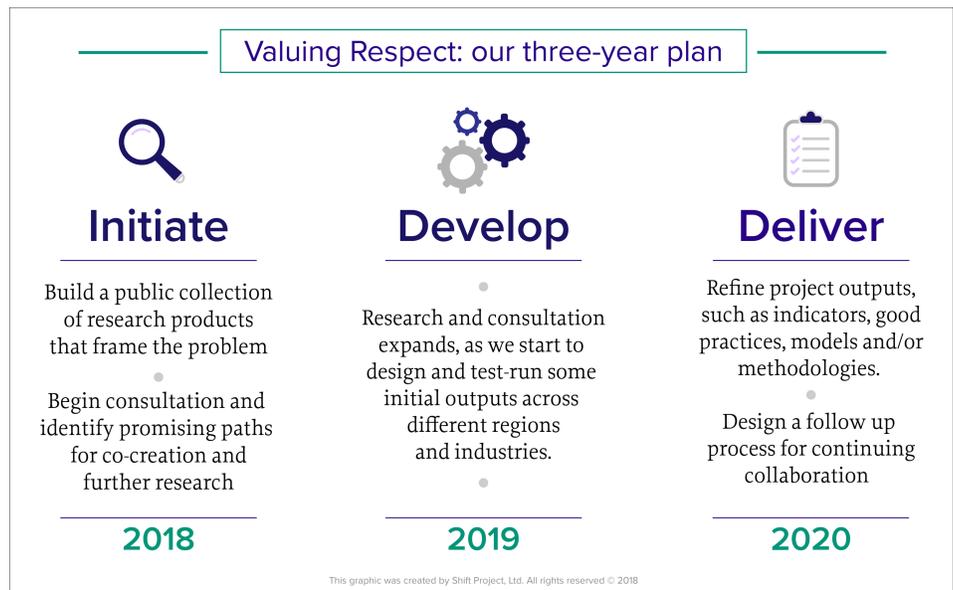
Introduction

This document outlines the multifaceted research agenda for Valuing Respect.

The aim for the first 12-to-18 months of research is to build up a public collection of research products that frame the problem of evaluating business respect for human rights, and start to identify promising ways forward for consultation and subsequent research.

We are exploring a range of avenues, always with the focus on helping to evaluate what is working in terms impacts on people's lives.

This includes evidence of actual outcomes for people, once they have happened. It also includes those factors that offer a signal or indicator of a likely outcome for people, and which can be used to both support good and prevent bad outcomes.



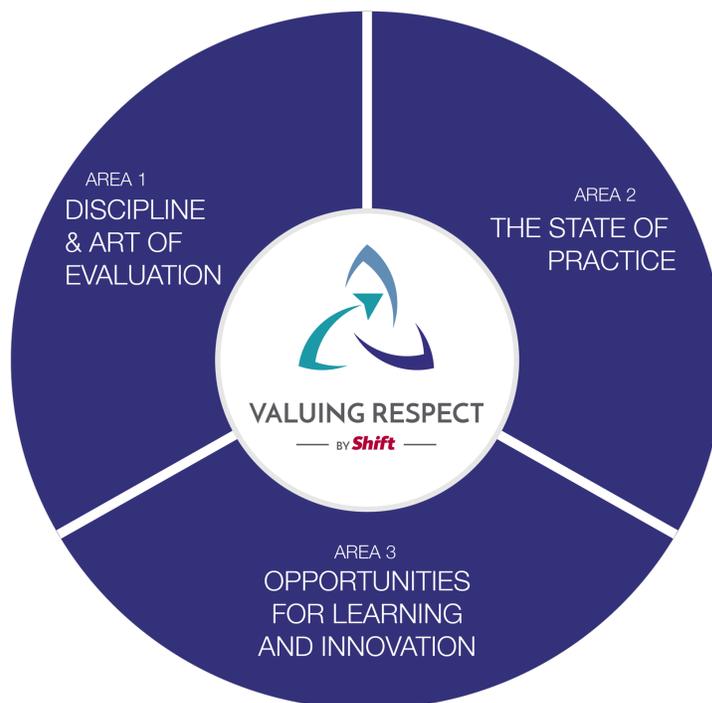
Objectives of Valuing Respect

We are being guided by three over-arching objectives for the research.

- **To establish a strong empirical baseline** about the current reality and “problem” of evaluating business respect for human rights (and social performance).
- **To involve people and ideas from a wide range of disciplines and perspectives**, so as to build the community of practice that contributes to the project.
- **To identify innovations** that hold promise for developing better ways of evaluating business respect for human rights.

OUR THREE AREAS OF RESEARCH

Valuing Respect is currently focused around **three areas** of research:



AREA ONE: The discipline and art of evaluation

<p>We are building a picture of how – across diverse fields such as international development, health and safety and behavioral science - evaluation is conducted. We are seeking to identify methodologies related to how investment and activities can be attributed to changes in practices, behaviors and outcomes. Our inquiry includes a focus on credible ways to develop indicators and access, then analyze and interpret relevant data.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can evaluation methods used by the international development field based on “theories of change” or “causal pathways” be applied to evaluation of business respect for human rights? • What can we learn from the health and safety field about the roles and relative strengths of leading and lagging indicators of performance? • What are best practices and pitfalls when using metrics and targets to inform decision-making and behaviors?
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AREA TWO: The state of practice

<p>Most companies already collect, use and disclose information related to some aspect of respect for human rights. And investors and civil society often have their own sets of questions and indicators they are using to try and drive change. Our research is looking into patterns and outliers of what current metrics and indicators are being used. We are also asking practitioners what they see as the progress and challenges of the current state of practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kinds of indicators and metrics currently dominate corporate reporting, ESG indexes and benchmarks? • What information is being provided in corporate human rights disclosures to offer insights about progress and performance? • What are business practitioners currently tracking and why? What would they like to be tracking and why? • What examples exist of individual companies, industry associations, company/NGO partnerships and multi-stakeholder initiatives seeking to improve how they develop and use indicators to drive change?
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AREA THREE: OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING AND INNOVATION

We are casting the net wide to focus on disciplines that might offer direction and methodologies to inform how to evaluate business respect for human rights. This will also help us to identify promising avenues for more applied research, and testing of prototype tools, as a basis for delivering final insights and products.

- What can we learn from other fields of practice, such as ethics and compliance, about potential indicators of **corporate cultures** that respect human rights?
- What might we learn from the mining industry about potential indicators of **good stakeholder relationships**?
- Are there particular indicators of human rights risk that are embedded within **business models and strategies**?
- What innovations are enabling the **voice of people affected by business activities** to be heard and become part of an evaluation process? What lessons do they hold and how might good models be expanded?
- What types of **technological innovation** show promise of enabling better evaluation of business respect for human rights?