# HRMI

# **RIGHTS INVESTOR**



# **Rights Investor:** a unique new dataset to help guide investment decisions

Worldwide, discussions are happening in almost every boardroom about how to broaden the focus of business beyond financial performance towards sustainable growth.

**Rights Investor** brings new, quantified insights about the human rights performance of countries. Our easily digestible dataset will complement your other ESG indicators, allowing you to reduce risk, maximise returns, increase impact, and identify investment opportunities.

I was very happy to learn about HRMI's work on quantifying the performance of human rights across countries. I know what an important role quality environment data has played in advancing the E pillar of ESG. There is huge potential for good country-level human rights data to do the same in measuring countries long term-sustainability.

- Hiro Mizuno, UN Special Envoy on Innovative Finance and Sustainable Investments, Former CIO of the Japan Government Pension Investment Fund



### Good analysis needs good data

The World Bank has identified a serious problem with currently available country ESG scores. The S pillar scores are correlated with GDP per capita, which means that lower income countries are missing out on ESG investment, even if they have good governance and are doing comparatively well with few resources<sup>1</sup>. They call this the **ingrained income bias problem**.

Another problem - which you'll be familiar with if you're using any kind of economic and social indicators in your ESG or country ratings - is that there are some big gaps in globally comparable information. For example, you can get primary school enrolment data for 183 countries, but China is not one of them. These gaps make it hard to compile comprehensive datasets. This is known as the missing data problem. When it comes to civil and political rights, most existing monitoring is either not converted into quantitative scores, or it is subject to significant biases and undercounts. We call this the **biased undercount problem**.

Your analysis can only be as good as the data that go into it. **Rights Investor** can help.

#### **Rights Investor** is a new data product from the Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI), a world-leading measurement NGO. Our experts have solved these data problems.



We have solved the **income bias problem** by benchmarking each country's performance against other countries at a similar income level. This unique methodology is peerreviewed and has won two prestigious awards<sup>2</sup>. This means investors can identify countries making effective use of their resources – at all levels of income.



We are solving the missing data problem by using a sophisticated statistical model that produces high-quality estimates conditioned on the data that we have. For more than 190 countries so far, our model produces a score within an uncertainty band. A country with more missing data will have a wider credible band around its score, but you'll still have robust numbers you can incorporate into your analysis. 3

We have solved the biased undercount problem by developing an expert survey methodology where we go right to the best sources of local information – human rights defenders and experts on the ground in each country. We know that doing in-country human rights due diligence is hard. We are developing a network of trusted experts and compiling their knowledge to make it easier for you!

<sup>1.</sup> Gratcheva, E., Gurhy, B., Emery, T., Wang, D., Oganes, L., Linzie, J.K., Harvey, L., Marney, K., Murray, J., Rink, R., 2021b. A New Dawn - Rethinking Sovereign ESG (EFI Insight-Finance). World Bank and J.P. Morgan, Washington, DC and New York, NY.

<sup>2.</sup> The book describing the methodology HRMI uses, *Fulfilling Social and Economic Rights* (Oxford University Press, 2015), won the 2016 best book of the year award from the American Political Science Association's Human Rights Section, and the three authors were awarded the 2019 Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order.



### What you'll get

Rights Investor includes the following three country-level data series:



## Economic and Social Rights Performance

An income-adjusted score showing how well a country is doing on things like education, food, health, housing, and adequate income for its people. This score relates directly to the quality of governance in a country.



#### Safety from the State Performance

A physical integrity rights score describing levels of freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention; forced disappearance; death penalty; extrajudicial execution; and torture and ill-treatment.

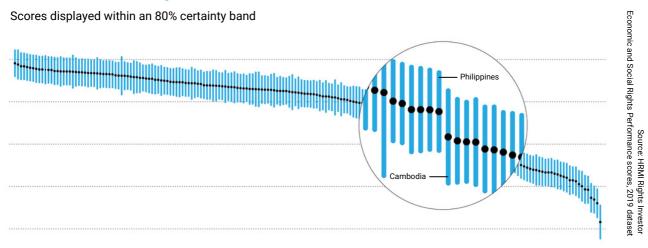


#### Empowerment Performance

A score showing each country's level of democratic empowerment, including freedom of assembly and association; opinion and expression; and participation in government.

To illustrate, the image below shows the 2019 Economic and Social Rights Performance scores for 193 countries – ranked from South Korea as the best performing country, down to Equatorial Guinea as the worst. Each country's score is provided within an 80% credible interval. Countries with wider credible intervals are those where fewer indicators are available.

#### Economic and Social Rights Performance score - all countries



Are you also interested in data on labour rights? Talk to us. This is top of our development list. In time, our goal is to measure country performance on all human rights set out in international law.



### Who are we?

The Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI) is a social impact human rights data platform that has been bringing world-leading human rights data to the world since 2018. Our co-founders are Anne-Marie Brook, a social entrepreneur and economist, and two academic experts in the measurement of human rights, Dr Susan Randolph and Dr K Chad Clay.

For the last five years we have been producing and providing country-level human rights data for free, at RightsTracker.org, so the scores and qualitative data can be used by civil society, media, governments and others to track progress and deterioration. We have been able to measure the deterioration of civil and political rights in Hong Kong, for example, as political changes have occurred, and the steady improvements in economic and social rights in India. We have documented the effect on human rights of the Covid-19 pandemic, and of the climate crisis.

Now we want to make our data more useful for private sector users like you.

Helping you invest smartly in a complex and interconnected world



### **Rights Investor features**

**Rights Investor** is complementary to HRMI's free Rights Tracker in two key ways: it is simpler, and more complete.

	Rights Tracker (free)	Rights Investor (members only)
What you get	High level of detail and nuance on country human rights performance	A simple set of data for all countries in the world
Designed for	General public, civil society, policy advisers, global monitoring bodies	Business use
Advantages	<ul> <li>More detailed</li> <li>Rights scores (e.g. rights to health, housing, free speech, etc)</li> <li>Different assessment standards for Economic and Social Rights Performance scores (high, low and middle income)</li> <li>Qualitative data on which groups of people are most at risk of not enjoying each right</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Simpler</li> <li>More complete: comprehensive scores for &gt; 190 countries</li> <li>Active member support from HRMI team</li> <li>Possibility to tailor new datasets to your needs</li> </ul>
Disadvantages	It takes time to get on top of all the details. Missing scores for countries means you cannot compile a complete global dataset	No disadvantages, as users will also have access to the more detailed data on the Rights Tracker.
Data sources	<ul> <li>Economic and Social Rights:</li> <li>International indicator databases</li> <li>SERF Index income-adjustment methodology</li> <li>Safety from the State and Empowerment rights:</li> <li>Proprietary data collected via HRMI survey of human rights experts in each country</li> </ul>	All Rights Tracker sources, plus other publicly available civil and political rights data. For example, the Varieties of Democracy dataset (V-Dem) and the Political Terror Scale.
How will this grow in future?	<ul> <li>We will add:</li> <li>More country coverage of civil and political rights as we expand HRMI's expert survey</li> <li>Rights under more international treaties, such as Indigenous rights, child rights, disability rights</li> <li>More disaggregation within countries</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>We will add:</li> <li>New labour rights dataset</li> <li>More disaggregation</li> <li>More sophisticated methodology</li> <li>Plus we look forward to hearing what you (our data users) want and need!</li> </ul>

All HRMI scores enable robust comparisons across countries and over time.



We want to see all governments taking their human rights scores as seriously as they do economic statistics. When human rights are properly incorporated into investment decisions, this will reduce risk and improve sustainability. It will also help create a world where all governments are highly motivated to treat their people well. You can help innovate by incorporating our scores into your investment decisions or ESG data products.

 Anne-Marie Brook, Co-Founder and Executive Director Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI)

> How to access the Rights Tracker? You can check it out now at **rightstracker.org**

How to access Rights Investor?

Contact: anne-marie.brook@hrmi.ngo