



The Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI) proposes the production of robust measures of children's rights under international law, particularly the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its optional protocols. Combining established sources of reliable, global data with innovative statistical techniques, we will craft not only an overall measure of children's rights outcomes but also measures of different categories of their rights, such as personhood, civil and political, physical integrity, economic, and social rights. Future work will collect data on domestic legal frameworks related to children's rights. Additionally, we will collect disaggregated data on identities including gender, sexual orientation, disability, geographic, and ethnic and religious minority status to identify patterns of respect for and abuses of children's rights. Similarly to HRMI's existing measures, these scores will be comparable across countries and over time and will be published in a format that is accessible to human rights scholars and practitioners, as well as to children themselves.

Why are new children's rights measures needed?

Although quantitative work on human rights has rapidly expanded in the last few decades, most of this research has focused on national measures of personal integrity rights. In recent years, there has been a push to measure and study additional categories of rights. Despite this push—and despite the clear demonstration of international support for children's rights through near-universal ratification of the CRC—children's rights have received little consideration in formal and regularly updated measurement projects.

Typical measures of human rights performance either exclude children's rights entirely or lack child-centric measures, subsuming information about their rights into conclusions about respect for human rights in the aggregate. Given that mistreatment of children remains common around the world and in all spheres of life, this obscures important differences between respect for children's rights and respect for the rights of other groups. Where child-specific metrics exist, they often lack vital coverage across countries, time, and rights. Most problematically, although children's participation is identified as a best practice for research that is child-focused, few measurement projects have taken this step.

What impact will these data have?

- **Tracking changes in respect for children's rights over time.** The data will be comparable across time and countries, facilitating the analysis of global and national trends by academics and practitioners.
- **Conducting business and human rights analyses.** Corporations have increased their focus on human rights obligations, including the use of child labor and other forms of exploitation. Supply chain analyses and related efforts depend on robust data.
- **Completing domestic monitoring and reports to the Committee on the Rights of Child.** Countries must submit regular reports to the Committee, and the United Nations has increasingly asked for the inclusion of quantitative evidence in them.
- **Holding governments accountable for their treaty obligations.** Stakeholders around the world work to ensure that governments respect, protect, and fulfill the rights outlined in international law. Quantitative data help further their claims of violations and pressure domestic governments to act.

HRMI has an ultimate goal of measuring all rights encompassed in international law. Adding children's rights to our coverage is an important step in that process. As the scope of HRMI measurement grows, so does its importance in the global arena.

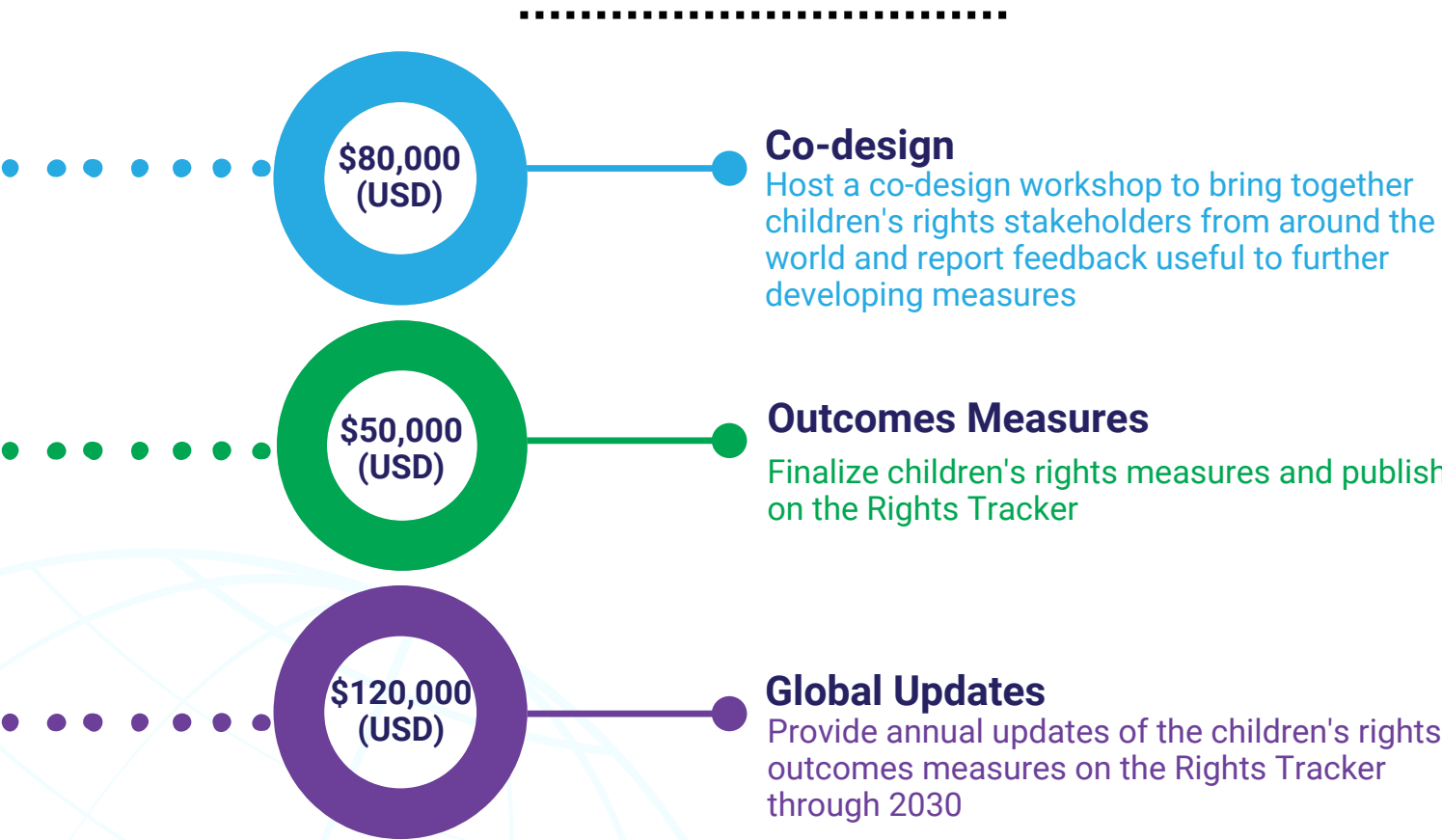
What approach are we taking?

To date, our team has used publicly available data and cutting-edge statistical techniques to create preliminary measures of children's aggregate, physical integrity, and economic and social rights that cover 190 countries from 2000 to 2018 (more than double the time coverage of existing measures).

The final data collection and measurement processes will be established through HRMI's philosophy of co-design. A **co-design workshop (\$80,000)** will bring together children's rights stakeholders and children from around the world to generate a peer-reviewed methodology that accounts for gaps in currently available data sources—for example, including rights not currently measured, accounting for uncertainty in data collection, and resolving issues with missing data. Costs for this workshop will include a facilitator, travel, logistics, administration, translation, and other overhead.

Following the workshop, we will proceed with the finalization and public provision of **measures of children's rights outcomes (\$50,000)** using existing data. These measures will have global coverage and build on feedback from the workshop to ensure the workstream addresses the needs of key stakeholders. This measure will then be **updated annually (\$120,000)**.

Cost of Children's Rights Measurement



These figures are indicative only. If you have any questions or suggestions or would like to discuss any aspect of this work, please email Elizabeth Kaletski at ekaletski@ithaca.edu and/or Annie Watson at watson.k.anne@gmail.com.