

2022 MOOC REPORT

Business and Human Rights



E-LEARNING
DEPARTMENT

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The MOOC in a nutshell

Key information and features



23 May-26 June



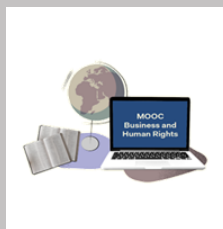
5+ hours/week



Open EdX



Webpage



Teaser

5 discussions
5 quizzes
2 surveys
2 polls

Engagement

A snapshot



**Zdzisław (Dzidek)
Kędzia**



Giulia Di Tommaso

Lecturers and
Experts



Ana Zbona



Arnold Kwesiga



**Claire Methven
O'Brien**



Ravi Prakash Vyas



**Maria José Veramendi
Villa**



Nkatha Murungi

2. Due diligence requirements

Human rights due diligence requires all companies to

- Assess risks to human rights linked to their activities
- Have a human rights policy
- Fire managers without human rights expertise
- Terminate contracts with suppliers known to have been involved in human rights abuses

Quizzes and Polls

Poll

Do you think companies can most effectively contribute to fulfilling children's rights...

Results

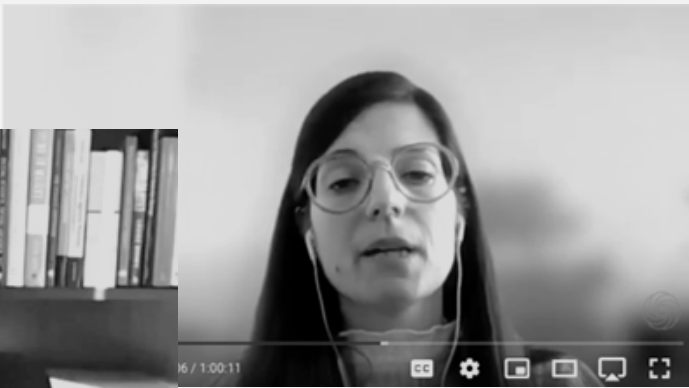
- by carrying out human rights due diligence which specifically identifies and assesses any actual or potential adverse impact on children's rights, including taking into account that girls and boys may face different risks **54%**
- by ensuring that children's rights are respected - no matter if they are consumers, community members, workers, and dependents of workers **32%**
- by guaranteeing no entity in the supply chain employs the worst forms of child labour **7%**
- realistically speaking, companies cannot be expected to take charge of any children's right, beside making sure they don't employ child labour **7%**

Results gathered from 219 respondents.

Webinars



Surya Deva



Maria Pia Bianchetti

Highlights



Continued interest in the topic from the business world



High participation and quality of contributions from participants



Excellent mix of theory and real-world, country-specific examples from different regions (case studies, discussions, field experts)



Highly adaptable to different levels of knowledge and diverse audiences



Participants' eagerness to apply and disseminate the newly acquired knowledge within their respective countries

Recommendations from participants



Include more interactive Q&A sessions with speakers



Encourage more engagement and interaction among participants



Allow for additional time



Increase hands-on learning



Revise the occurring repetitions in materials

A diverse and well-qualified audience

High-level professional profiles

The number of participants in this second edition of the MOOC in Business and Human Rights (1375 enrolled) exceeded the expectations and proved that the topic chosen is very relevant to a wide audience.

This year's cohort was very diverse in terms of both professional background and country of origin: the course caught the interest of many human rights and business professionals, NGO and social workers, governmental officers, researchers and representatives of different institutions worldwide.

The overall level of preparation of participants was remarkably high. From the very beginning, most of the participants joined the course with clearly defined goals and objectives that reflected their specific career and needs. Participants brought their different perspectives and experiences to the learning community, enriching the discussion and providing one another with meaningful insights for further investigation into the topic.

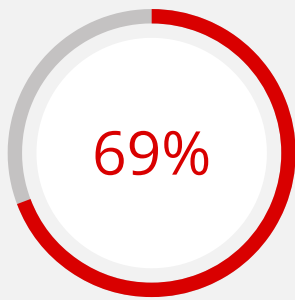


As the staff of the Development Finance Department of the Central Bank of Nigeria, I have to do with people such as farmers and low income individuals in conflict affected areas. I want to learn how to do my job without violating their rights and help my organization in designing programs that don't violate the rights of the beneficiaries.



I wish to learn more in the area of Business and Human Rights in order to understand and better my practice as an advocate of the High Court of Kenya and as a human rights defender.

Audience demographics



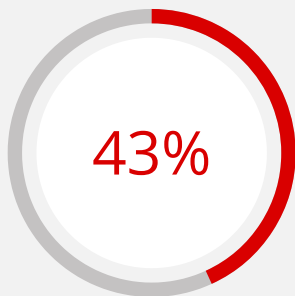
Young participants (19-34 years old)

The MOOC appealed to a young audience, with 45% of participants being between 25-34 years of age, followed by a 24% of people aged 19-24.



Business professionals

Compared to past editions, the participation of business professionals was stable. Yet, this can be deemed a success considering that this is not a typical audience for our academic activities.



Human Rights professionals

The percentage of participants involved in human rights work as NGO professionals and/or as human rights defenders increased compared to last year's 37%.

Expectations of course participants



I am establishing an NGO. I would like to know more about business and human rights in order to better serve the people I will be helping.



This will nicely complement my research for my master's thesis for my Human Rights LLM degree - I intend to focus on criminalisation of corporations under international criminal law in my thesis.

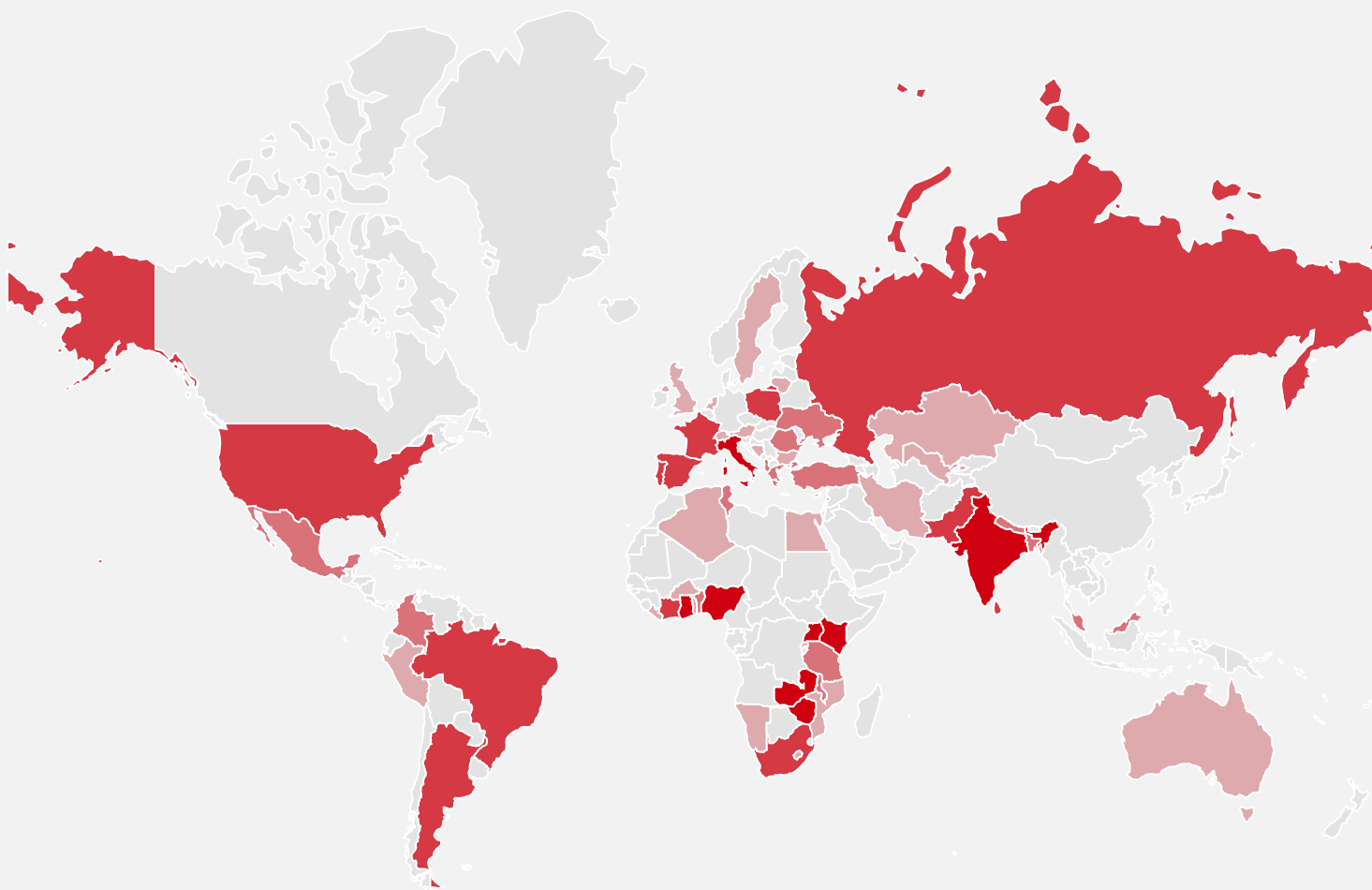


As a creative entrepreneur and digital rights activists - I am very much interested in learning and exploring this nexus. It is an important aspect especially when trying to hold the duty to account plus also creating a productive and inclusive.



As I am a future diplomat, and South Caucasus faces human rights challenges, this course gives me great opportunity to get familiar with human rights challenges.

OUR CERTIFICATES REACHED **196** PARTICIPANTS IN **61** COUNTRIES IN MANY DIFFERENT REGIONS



1375 participants

The course had a particularly high participation rate from **Sub-Saharan Africa** with **37%** registrations. Other regions that fared well were **Europe** at **27%** and **Asia-Pacific** at **15%**. Participation from **Latin America (6%)**, **MENA (5%)**, North America (4%), **Central Asia (3%)** and **Southeast Europe (1%)** was in line with previous courses.

14% certificates

The countries with the highest number of certificates were **Kenya (23)**, **Italy (15)** and **India (13)**. Other noteworthy results concerns certificates delivered to participants in countries in difficult situations such as **Ukraine (2)**, **Ethiopia (4)**, **Nigeria (6)** and **the Philippines (4)**, showing the powerful reach of online education.

An informative and comprehensive course

Quality ratings and comments

Participants generally expressed great satisfaction with their learning experience, finding the course “very well-structured” and the content “informative” and “comprehensive”. The learning material was appreciated by all participants who deemed it suitable to different levels of preparation and learning needs: serving as an introduction (an “eye-opener that gives a completely new point of view or gives the basic knowledge and definitions”), but also as a complementary material that helps systemize knowledge. Significantly, even the most experienced participants appreciated the in-depth expertise offered by our guest speakers.

“Amazingly grateful for the opportunity to unlearn, learn and relearn about the subject. Many thanks to the organisers, resource persons and to all web of networks engaged profitably.”

The characteristics of MOOCs were highly valued, including the self-paced learning and the possibility to interact with others through discussions. Through their written contributions, participants managed to create a compendium with well-structured information on critical issues and current practices in their home countries. This resulted in a much valued peer-to-peer learning exercise that exposed participants to diverse and global perspectives on the topic. Moreover, the extremely high level of the discussions showed the importance and the full potential of MOOCs to engage expert participants in support of invaluable knowledge sharing.

In their feedback on the learning outcomes of the course, participants stated that the course gave them the opportunity to understand the importance of the collaboration among policy makers, institutions and business, the aspects that main stakeholders need to take into account when developing harmonised policies, and in particular the impact of businesses and economic factors on children’s rights.

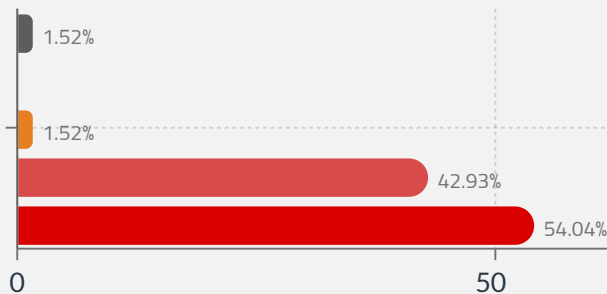
Many respondents finally highlighted the importance of providing education on such a relevant and pressing issue and hope that more free courses can be offered in this and other Human Rights related topics. As a matter of fact, right after the end of the second edition we received emails from latecomers asking for a course relaunch.

“The thread was very interesting, because it starts from the general and then moves on to the specifics. I especially enjoyed learning about 'basic' concepts and then how they translate into real cases. I also liked that it is very oriented towards global mechanisms, but then I see the examples of specific countries.”

IMPACTFUL MATERIALS AND ACTIVITIES MADE PARTICIPANTS GIVE VERY HIGH RATING AND TOP RECOMMENDATION

Positive impact of materials

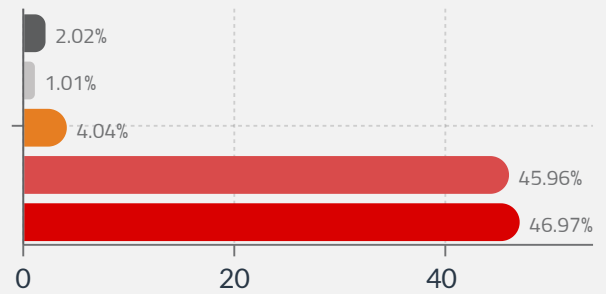
97% agrees



- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

Positive impact of activities

93% agrees



- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

93% gave 4-5 *

When asked to give an overall rating on a scale of 1 to 5, only 7% of participants gave 3*. The rest is shared between **41%** who **assigned 4*** and **52%** who **gave 5***.

99% would recommend

We also asked how likely they were to recommend the MOOC to a friend. If 1% was neutral, the rest was **likely (13%)**, **very likely (41%)** and **extremely likely (45%)**.

Impact for change

Intended and unintended spillover effect

In their comments, participants noted that the course has been surely helpful to acquire a better understanding of the impact of business on children's rights and particularly on the various aspects related to child labour. However, that was not the only form of impact that they mentioned.

Many of them also stated that the course has been useful to steer their careers in new directions and inspire action by opening up new perspectives and shining a light on aspects of business and human rights that they had seldom thought of. Participants also expressed their eagerness to implement and disseminate this acquired knowledge within their respective contexts in order to bring about positive change in their societies, meaning that this MOOC will also have positive spillover effects to the benefit of wider constituencies.



I am in a better place to advise business entities on what they should and what they should not do to promote human rights in my country. I am also ready to advise governments on their duties under the UN Guidelines on Business and Human Rights, generally.



The course helped me understand how I can emphasise the need for human rights when advising corporate clients. From a personal point of view, it reassured me that constantly deepening our knowledge of human rights is necessary to make ourselves and other people aware of what it really means to be human.



I am currently involved in advising a group of companies engaged in manufacturing, distribution and mining. This course has enlightened me in enabling me to identify areas of human rights concern. Now I can easily identify human rights violations in my company and make recommendations for correction.



I am starting a career in advocacy for rights of marginalised groups like women, children and members of the LGBTQ community. This course has helped me understand the disproportionate way these groups are impacted, particularly in the area of business.



... the organisation I am working for has recently adopted business and human rights as a new area to work on, as such the course has just come at the right time to provide me with insights I really needed in preparing my paper and responding to human rights violations by businesses in Zimbabwe.



This course has given exposure to new terminologies and tenets to help plan and formulate CSR plans with due diligence.



I am more knowledgeable than before the course. Will be able to make a huge difference in my working environment and also to share the new gain knowledge with others. Will voluntarily join other HR groups.



The course provided me with much needed understanding of child labour. I will tackle that in one of the courses I will teach later.

The course has opened my understanding of the nexus between human rights and the business field. It has helped me appreciate that human rights impact all sphere of our lives including the business world.

It was genuinely one of the highlights of my learning life because of the international nature which exposed me to different perspectives.

Keep up disseminating knowledge. An informed world is the key to a safe world.

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