

**Company Name** Ross Stores  
**Industry** Apparel (Supply Chain only)  
**UNGP Core Score (\*)** 2.0 out of 26

Score	Out of	For indicators
<b>Governance and Policy Commitments</b>		
0	2	A.1.1 Commitment to respect human rights
0.5	2	A.1.2 Commitment to respect the human rights of workers
0	2	A.1.4 Commitment to engage with stakeholders
0	2	A.1.5 Commitment to remedy
<b>Embedding respect and Human Rights Due Diligence</b>		
Embedding respect		
0	2	B.1.1 Embedding - Responsibility and resources for day-to-day human rights functions
Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD)		
0	2	B.2.1 HRDD - Identifying: Processes and triggers for identifying human rights risks and impacts
0	2	B.2.2 HRDD - Assessing: Assessment of risks and impacts identified (salient risks and key industry risks)
0	2	B.2.3 HRDD - Integrating and Acting: Integrating assessment findings internally and taking appropriate action
0	2	B.2.4 HRDD - Tracking: Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of actions to respond to human rights risks and impacts
0	2	B.2.5 HRDD - Reporting: Accounting for how human rights impacts are addressed
<b>Remedies and Grievance Mechanisms</b>		
1.5	2	C.1 Grievance channels/mechanisms to receive complaints or concerns from workers
0	2	C.2 Grievance channels/mechanisms to receive complaints or concerns from external individuals and communities
0	2	C.7 Remedying adverse impacts and incorporating lessons learned
<b>2.0</b>	<b>26</b>	

(\*) Instead of the full list of indicators in the 2020 CHRB Methodology, this year's assessment uses the CHRB Core UNGP Indicators. These are 13 non-industry specific indicators that focus on three key areas of the UNGPs: high level commitments, human rights due diligence and access to remedy.

The 13 indicators selected from the full CHRB Methodology are scored on a simple unweighted basis, with a maximum of 2 points for each indicator for a maximum total of 26 points.

In addition, allegations of severe human rights impacts (Measurement Theme E) were also assessed but do not impact overall final scores

Please note that the "Not met" labels in the Explanation boxes below do not necessarily mean that the company does not meet the requirements as they are described in the bullet point short text. Rather, it means that the analysts could not find information *in public sources* that met the requirements *as described in full* in the CHRB 2020 Methodology document. For example, a "Not met" under "General HRs Commitment", which is the first bullet point for indicator A.1.1, does not necessarily mean that the company does not have a general commitment to human rights. Rather, it means that the CHRB could not identify a public statement of policy in which the company commits to respecting human rights.

## Detailed assessment

### Governance and Policies

Indicator Code	Indicator name	Score (out of 2)	Explanation
A.1.1	Commitment to respect human rights	0	<p>The individual elements of the assessment are met or not as follows:</p> <p>Score 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: General HRs commitment</li> <li>• Not met: UNGC principles 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>• Not met: UDHR</li> <li>• Not met: International Bill of Rights</li> </ul> <p>Score 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: UNGPs</li> <li>• Not met: OECD</li> </ul>
A.1.2	Commitment to respect the human rights of workers	0.5	<p>The individual elements of the assessment are met or not as follows:</p> <p>Score 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: ILO Core: The Company's code of business conduct and ethics contains a commitment regarding non-discrimination. No further commitments found covering explicitly any other ILO core areas for its own operations. [Code of Business Conduct, 13/3/2019: <a href="https://investors.rossstores.com">investors.rossstores.com</a>]</li> <li>• Not met: UNGC principles 3-6</li> <li>• Met: Explicitly list ALL four ILO for AP suppliers: Concerning suppliers, the Ross vendor compliance manual contains the vendor code of conduct, which includes all ILO core. With respect freedom of association and collective bargaining, the document says: 'Vendors must recognize and respect rights of workers to freedom of association and collective bargaining'. [Vendor Compliance Manual 2019, 12/2019: <a href="https://partners.rossstores.com">partners.rossstores.com</a>]</li> </ul> <p>Score 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: Explicit commitment to All four ILO Core: See above, no evidence found of commitment to all ILO core areas for own operations. [Code of Business Conduct, 13/3/2019: <a href="https://investors.rossstores.com">investors.rossstores.com</a>]</li> <li>• Met: Respect H&amp;S of workers: The Company states that 'we are committed to providing a safe and secure environment where our customers and associates can shop and work. We operate in a manner that promotes safe stores and work practices and follows all federal and state regulations'. The Company explains some of its priorities regarding this topic. Report is prefaced and signed by the CEO. [CSR 2020, 30/01/2020: <a href="https://corp.rossstores.com">corp.rossstores.com</a>]</li> <li>• Met: H&amp;S applies to AP suppliers: In addition, its Vendor Compliance Manual includes requirements about health and safety: 'Vendors must comply with all applicable, legally mandated standards for workplace health and safety, including but not limited to standards for workplace safety (e.g., applicable workplace or building fire and similar safety codes)'. [Vendor Compliance Manual 2019, 12/2019: <a href="https://partners.rossstores.com">partners.rossstores.com</a>]</li> <li>• Not met: working hours for workers</li> <li>• Not met: Working hours for AP suppliers: Finally, the Vendor Compliance Manual also includes a section about Working Hours: 'Vendors must operate based on prevailing local work hours and observe applicable laws regarding vacation time, leave period, and holidays. Any time worked beyond the norm must be compensated according to local labor laws'. However, this does not align with international standards. [Vendor Compliance Manual 2019, 12/2019: <a href="https://partners.rossstores.com">partners.rossstores.com</a>]</li> </ul>
A.1.4	Commitment to engage with stakeholders	0	<p>The individual elements of the assessment are met or not as follows:</p> <p>Score 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: Commits to stakeholder engagement</li> <li>• Not met: Regular stakeholder engagement: In its website section 'Supporting our Communities' the Company discloses information about different social programs supported by the Company, mainly as charity. However it does not cover all potentially and actually affected stakeholders. [Supporting our Communities: <a href="https://corp.rossstores.com/responsibility#corp.rossstores.com">https://corp.rossstores.com/responsibility#corp.rossstores.com</a>]</li> </ul>

Indicator Code	Indicator name	Score (out of 2)	Explanation
			Score 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: Commits to engage stakeholders in design</li> <li>• Not met: Regular stakeholder design engagement</li> </ul>
A.1.5	Commitment to remedy	0	The individual elements of the assessment are met or not as follows: Score 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: Commits to remedy</li> </ul> Score 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: Not obstructing access to other remedies</li> <li>• Not met: Collaborating with other remedy initiatives</li> <li>• Not met: Work with AP suppliers to remedy impacts</li> </ul>

## Embedding Respect and Human Rights Due Diligence

Indicator Code	Indicator name	Score (out of 2)	Explanation
B.1.1	Responsibility and resources for day-to-day human rights functions	0	The individual elements of the assessment are met or not as follows: Score 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: Commits to ILO core conventions</li> <li>• Not met: Senior responsibility for HR</li> </ul> Score 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: Day-to-day responsibility</li> <li>• Not met: Day-to-day responsibility for AP in supply chain</li> </ul>
B.2.1	Identifying: Processes and triggers for identifying human rights risks and impacts	0	The individual elements of the assessment are met or not as follows: Score 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: Identifying risks in own operations</li> <li>• Not met: Identifying risks in AP suppliers</li> </ul> Score 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: Ongoing global risk identification</li> <li>• Not met: In consultation with stakeholders</li> <li>• Not met: In consultation with HR experts</li> <li>• Not met: Triggered by new circumstances</li> </ul>
B.2.2	Assessing: Assessment of risks and impacts identified (salient risks and key industry risks)	0	The individual elements of the assessment are met or not as follows: Score 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: Salient risk assessment (and context)</li> <li>• Not met: Public disclosure of salient risks</li> </ul> Score 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: Both requirements under score 1 met</li> </ul>
B.2.3	Integrating and Acting: Integrating assessment findings internally and taking appropriate action	0	The individual elements of the assessment are met or not as follows: Score 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: Action Plans to mitigate risks</li> <li>• Not met: Including in AP supply chain</li> <li>• Not met: Example of Actions decided</li> </ul> Score 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: Both requirements under score 1 met</li> </ul>
B.2.4	Tracking: Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of actions to respond to human rights risks and impacts	0	The individual elements of the assessment are met or not as follows: Score 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: System to check if Actions are effective</li> <li>• Not met: Lessons learnt from checking effectiveness</li> </ul> Score 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: Both requirement under score 1 met</li> </ul>
B.2.5	Communicating : Accounting for how human rights impacts are addressed	0	The individual elements of the assessment are met or not as follows: Score 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: Comms plan re identifying risks</li> <li>• Not met: Comms plan re assessing risks</li> <li>• Not met: Comms plan re action plans for risks</li> <li>• Not met: Comms plan re reviewing action plans</li> <li>• Not met: Including AP suppliers</li> </ul> Score 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: Responding to affected stakeholders concerns</li> </ul>

Indicator Code	Indicator name	Score (out of 2)	Explanation
			• Not met: Ensuring affected stakeholders can access communications

## Remedies and Grievance Mechanisms

Indicator Code	Indicator name	Score (out of 2)	Explanation
C.1	Grievance channel(s)/mechanism(s) to receive complaints or concerns from workers	1.5	<p>The individual elements of the assessment are met or not as follows:</p> <p>Score 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met: Channel accessible to all workers: The document 'Whistle-Blowing' and complaint policy and procedure indicates, concerning the report of violations, that: 'This policy deals with the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints about accounting, internal controls, auditing matters, or deceptive practices, as well as violations of laws, rules and regulations'. The document also states that 'The Company has established a procedure to allow employees, customers, or business partners to submit complaints on a confidential and anonymous basis'. This mechanism is accessible to all workers, customers and business partners. [Whistle Blowing and Complaint Policy and Procedures, 13/3/2019: <a href="https://investors.rossstores.com">investors.rossstores.com</a>]</li> </ul> <p>Score 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: Number grievances filed, addressed or resolved</li> <li>• Not met: Channel is available in all appropriate languages</li> <li>• Met: Expect AP supplier to have equivalent grievance systems: The vendor code of conduct contained within Vendor compliance manual states that: 'Vendors must maintain procedures by which workers may report violations of the standards without fear of reprisal'. The vendor code also indicates that 'Ross has established the general principles below, which represent Ross's minimum expectations and serve only as a starting point for you to evaluate your practices and working conditions and those of your subcontractors'. [Vendor Compliance Manual 2019, 12/2019: <a href="https://partners.rossstores.com">partners.rossstores.com</a>]</li> <li>• Met: Opens own system to AP supplier workers: See above, the Company's procedure is open to business partners. [Whistle Blowing and Complaint Policy and Procedures, 13/3/2019: <a href="https://investors.rossstores.com">investors.rossstores.com</a>]</li> </ul>
C.2	Grievance channel(s)/mechanism(s) to receive complaints or concerns from external individuals and communities	0	<p>The individual elements of the assessment are met or not as follows:</p> <p>Score 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: Grievance mechanism for community</li> </ul> <p>Score 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: Describes accessibility and local languages</li> <li>• Not met: Expects AP supplier to have community grievance systems</li> <li>• Not met: AP supplier communities use global system</li> </ul>
C.7	Remedying adverse impacts and incorporating lessons learned	0	<p>The individual elements of the assessment are met or not as follows:</p> <p>Score 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: Describes how remedy has been provided</li> <li>• Not met: Says how it would remedy key sector risks</li> </ul> <p>Score 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not met: Changes introduced to stop repetition</li> <li>• Not met: Approach to learning from incident to prevent future impacts</li> <li>• Not met: Evaluation of the channel/mechanism</li> </ul>

## Performance: Responses to Serious Allegations (Not included in the overall score)

Indicator Code	Indicator name	Score (out of 2)	Explanation
E(1).0	Serious allegation No 1		No allegations meeting the CHRB severity threshold were found.

### Disclaimer

A score of zero for a particular indicator does not mean that bad practices are present. Rather it means that we have been unable to identify the required information in public documentation.

See the 2020 Key Findings report and the 2019 technical annex for more details of the research process.

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As WBA, we want to emphasise that the results will always be a proxy for good human rights management, and not an absolute measure of performance. This is because there are no fundamental units of measurement for human rights. Human rights assessments are therefore necessarily more subjective than objective. The Benchmark also captures only a snap shot in time. We therefore want to encourage companies, investors, civil society and governments to look at the broad performance bands that companies are ranked within rather than their precise score because, as with all measurements, there is a reasonably wide margin of error possible in interpretation. We also want to encourage a greater analytical focus on how scores improve over time rather than upon how a company compares to other companies in the same industry today. The spirit of the exercise is to promote continual improvement via an open assessment process and a common understanding of the importance of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

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