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stakeholders and move towards a 'bottom-up' approach
company, but also include risks that matter to local
the definition of materiality to not only include risks
proper sustainable impact measurements. Instead
SDG and financial materiality, in relation to the go

The social impact of business in fragile and conflict-affected

When applying “enhanced” human rights due diligence,

Dimension of Human Security	Risks to security	ESG	SDG
Economic	Poverty, unemployment, corruption, lack of access to land, water, electricity, credit or good education	Governance and Social	SDG 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 16 and 17
Food	Hunger, famine	Social	SDG 2
Health	Infectious diseases, unsafe food, malnutrition, lack of access to health care	Social	SDG 3, 6
Environmental	Environmental degradation, resource depletion, lack of access to drinking water, natural disasters including drought or floods, pollution	Environmental	SDG 6, 12, 13, 14, and 15
Personal	Physical violence, crime, terrorism, domestic violence, child labour, injustices	Social	SDG 5, 8 and 16
Community/group	Inter-ethnic, religious and other identity based tensions, group grievances based on socio-economic & cultural inequalities, lack of social cohesion	Social	SDG 5, 10, 11, 16
Political	Political polarization, repression, human rights abuses, corruption, lack of transparency, injustices	Governance and Social	SDG 10 and 16

Figure 1: Human Security Risks mapped to ESG factors and SDGs (Figure by authors)

In addition, by identifying and measuring levels of Positive Peace (PP) in a defined area, the background conditions for HS—both the threat to HS and the resilience against the threat – that make up the environment are uncovered. It is generally acknowledged that increasing levels of PP offer more HS guarantees for people. This improved HS automatically reduces the ESG risks for companies. On the other hand, deteriorating levels of PP that reach a specific threshold will offer indications that the exposed risk has become a threat to people’s security with implications for the company and the business activities. Such a set of “red flags” could be built into a company’s risk management system, which is already being piloted by a number of multinational companies. It also aligns
