Xiaomi Corp. (Xiaomi), the world’s fourth-largest smartphone manufacturer,1 ranks last in the benchmark. It is the only company to score zero across all seven benchmark themes. While the company discloses that it is “committed to responsible business practices and to high standards of ethical behavior [and that it holds its] suppliers to high standards of excellence defined in governing laws, recognized international standards and conventions,” it does not disclose a commitment to addressing forced labor, nor does it have a policy prohibiting forced labor in its supply chains. The company is encouraged to improve its performance and disclosure across all themes, in particular Commitment and Governance, Traceability and Risk Assessment, and Recruitment.

Research conducted through October 2019 or through January 2020, where companies provided additional disclosure or links. For more information, see the full dataset here. For information on a company’s positive and negative human rights impact, see the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre website. It includes an allegation in the company’s supply chains regarding forced labor of ethnic minorities transferred from Xinjiang to factories across other provinces in China, which falls outside of the research timeframe.
KEY DATA POINTS

SUPPLIER LIST
No

AVERAGE SUPPLIER SCORE
N/A

HIGH-RISK SOURCING COUNTRIES
China

NO-FEE POLICY
No

REMEDY FOR SUPPLY CHAINS WORKERS
No

LEADING PRACTICES
None.

NOTABLE FINDINGS
None.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Commitment & Governance: The company is encouraged to develop and disclose a supplier code of conduct that includes the ILO core labor standards, which include the elimination of forced labor. It is further encouraged to establish responsibilities and accountability for the implementation of such a standard and train internal staff and suppliers on the standard.

Traceability and Risk Assessment: To demonstrate a strong understanding of its supply chains, the company may consider disclosing the names and addresses of its first-tier suppliers, the countries in which its below-first-tier suppliers operate, the countries from which it sources raw materials at high risk of forced labor, and several data points on its suppliers’ workforce. The company is further encouraged to assess forced labor risks across its supply chains and disclose the risks identified.

Recruitment: To address the risk of exploitation of migrant workers through recruitment agencies in its supply chains, the company is encouraged to take steps to ensure that workers in its supply chains are not charged fees during any recruitment-related process. The company may further consider taking steps to ensure that such fees are reimbursed to the workers and/or provide evidence of payment of recruitment-related fees by suppliers if it discovers that fees have been paid by workers in its supply chains. The company is also encouraged to take steps to ensure that the rights of workers in vulnerable conditions, such as migrant workers, are respected (e.g., to verify workers’ passports and other personal documents are not retained).

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No.
1 As of Q4 2019, Xiaomi was recorded as having the fourth-largest smartphone market share. Counterpoint (18 February 2020), “Global smartphone market share by quarter.” See also TechCrunch (13 August 2019), “Xiaomi tops Indian smartphone market for eighth quarter straight.”

2 The US Department of Labor lists China as a country where electronics may be produced using forced labor. US Department of Labor (20 September 2018), “List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor.”