Collaborating with expert stakeholders locally and globally is integral to our human rights program. For instance, the GE Foundation has funded work by the Institute for Human Rights and Business on the global problem of human trafficking—specifically, funding the IHRB’s Responsible Recruitment initiative—and the UN Global Compact’s Human Rights and Business Dilemmas Forum.

GE is a founding member of the Global Business Initiative on Human Rights, whose mission is to advance human rights in a business context through cross-industry peer learning, outreach and capacity building, and informing policy. GE is also a member of the Leadership Group for Responsible Recruitment, a collaboration between leading companies and expert organizations to drive positive change in the way that migrant workers are recruited, with a focus on eliminating fees being charged to workers to secure employment. The three-fold aim of this initiative is to: (1) create demand for responsible recruitment by raising awareness about the positive benefits of ethical practices and developing tools to help companies implement the Employer Pays Principle; (2) increase the supply of ethically sourced labor by creating an enabling environment and supporting the development and implementation of systems to identify and use ethical recruitment agencies; and (3) advocate for improved protection for migrant workers by brokering dialogue to promote the effective regulation and enforcement of the recruitment industry.

In 2017, GE collaborated with Good World Solutions, now part of Elevate, to participate in a smartphone-enabled worker voice pilot in India sponsored in part by Humanity United. The purpose of the pilot was to survey residents in towns where GE suppliers recruit workers to gauge whether they were experiencing any forced labor conditions in their recruitment or employment. GE is looking at this and other ways to enhance worker voice in our supply chain to provide the Company with another way beyond audits to identify and correct worker welfare issues.