



Promotion of Multi-stakeholder Projects for Sustainable Textile Supply Chains

The challenge

The fashion, textile and garment industry (the 'textile sector') has become a key economic sector worldwide. While the sector has a positive impact on growth and employment, it is also characterised by poor working conditions in the factories (including child and forced labour), the discrimination against women, low wages and high environmental costs. In many textile-producing countries, the production and working conditions do not meet international environmental and social standards. It is estimated that the textile sector is responsible for 20% of the world's industrial wastewater, 10% of CO₂ emissions, 24% of all insecticides and 11% of all pesticides used.

Our approach and our objective

Given the many stakeholders involved, the supply chains are complex and lack transparency. The many social and environmental challenges make it difficult for individual companies to create and establish sustainable solutions. Multi-stakeholder projects bring together actors from governments, business, civil society and academia who contribute their diverse expertise and perspectives to working together on achieving continuous improvement in the producer countries.

In recent years, politicians, consumers and companies in Germany and other industrial countries have become increasingly aware of the impact of consumer and producer behaviour. It is generally agreed that without the concerted efforts of governments, the private sector and civil society, there can be no viable long-term solutions.

The sector project Promotion of Multi-Stakeholder Projects for Sustainable Textile Supply Chains therefore seeks to strengthen cooperation between public, private and civil society actors on meeting sustainability criteria in textile

supply chains. To this end the project cooperates with the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles, a multi-stakeholder initiative that was founded in 2014 and which works with representatives from the private sector, non-governmental organisations, trade unions, standards organisations and the German Government on improving textile production worldwide.

The sector project achieves its objectives by focusing on three areas of action:

- (1) Implementing the BMZ contribution to 'collective engagement' as a partner of the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles,
- (2) Removing obstacles to cooperation between different actors in Germany and in the producer countries along the textile supply chain,
- (3) Developing ideas for the collective engagement of actors in achieving the project objective.

Project name	Promotion of Multi-stakeholder Projects for Sustainable Textile Supply Chains
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Partners	Public and private sector actors, civil society organisations
Project region	Global
Term	February 2017 – June 2023
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Our areas of action

1. Promoting Partnership Initiatives and projects involving collective engagement

At the interface with the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles, the project implements Partnership Initiatives and joint Partnership projects. These projects can have environmental as well as social goals. Adopting a multi-stakeholder approach, Partnership members are involved in the implementation on the ground. For example, the subject of living wages is addressed by supporting companies in improving their purchasing practices and by offering training measures to suppliers. Another Initiative seeks to mainstream sustainable wastewater management in the textile supply chain. More information on the Initiatives can be found on the [Textile Partnership website](#).

2. Promoting strategic cooperation and pilot projects along textile supply chains

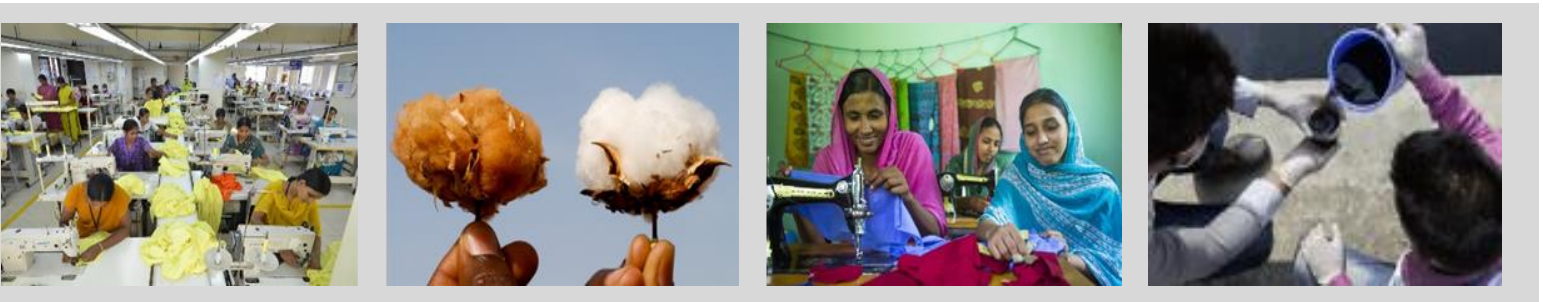
Collaborating with various actors, the project develops innovative pilot schemes that are subsequently scaled up or replicated with measures being rolled out in other countries and sectors. Here the project works closely with GIZ projects (in partner countries and Germany) and with external partners. In the Tunisian textile sector, for instance, which consumes vast amounts of freshwater and poses a risk to the country's scarce water resources, the project is introducing measures to enhance the efficiency of chemical, environmental and energy management. Against the back

drop of the coronavirus pandemic, hygiene strategies for textile production sites in the partner countries are being developed in another project, and online training courses are being conducted. This approach will be launched in other additional sectors.

In order to continue driving the partnership with German development cooperation and with strategic partners, projects will also be implemented to provide institutional support for the partners (foundations and non-governmental organisations) or in cooperation with partners on the ground. For instance, initiatives to strengthen the resilience of women in crisis situations are supported by developing training programmes for employees. In another project, INNATEX, a textile trade fair, is being expanded to include a virtual space for sustainable textiles from Africa. As African traders have lost key sales and distribution channels because of the coronavirus pandemic and the cancellation of several trade fairs, the virtual fair will offer a new platform to increase their visibility internationally.

3. Developing project concepts

The sector project generates ideas and concepts for collective engagement by public and private sector actors and civil society organisations. For this it makes use of the lessons learned from measures that have already been implemented in order to launch projects in other countries and sectors and to scale up or replicate an approach.



Publication details

Published by:
Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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Bonn, July 2021

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