

Initiative for Global Solidarity

Living up to our responsibility!

The Initiative for Global Solidarity (IGS) promotes the implementation of human rights and environmental due diligence (HREDD) in global supply chains by scaling and harmonising proven approaches. The IGS enables buying and supplying companies in the garment and electronics sector to exercise shared responsibility for the impacts of their business practices on people and the planet.

Background

Today's business relations and value chains know no boundaries. However, human rights and social and environmental standards are regularly undermined within these complex supply networks. Employees in producing countries, the local population and, last but not least, the environment and climate, are directly affected. Globally, the response to this situation is a greater focus on sustainability as well as on due diligence. The German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act and similar regulation on EU level require companies to analyse social and ecological risks in their supply chains, take appropriate preventive measures and monitor their effectiveness. The IGS is based on the due diligence approach described in

the UN Guiding Principles and the OECD Guidelines (see illustration on the left) and emphasises risk analysis (2), measures (3), grievance & remediation (5) and reporting (6).

Approach

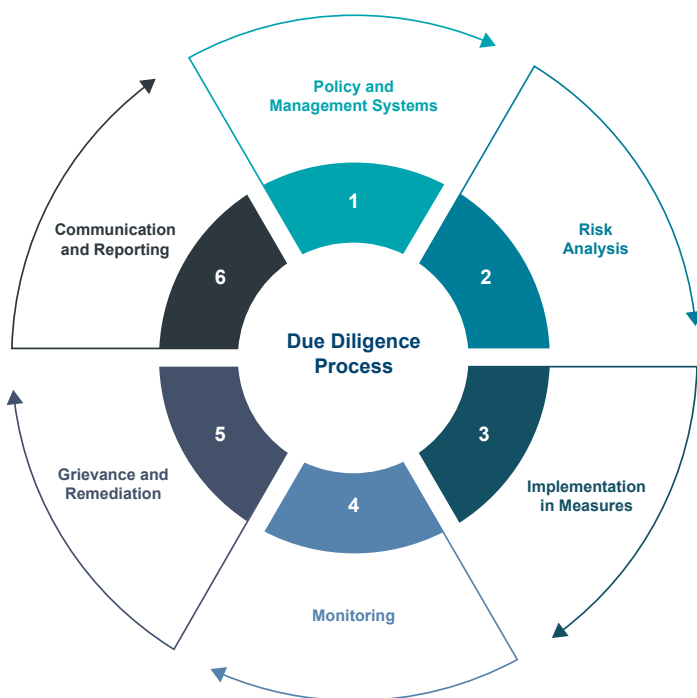
The IGS works both on global and local level by scaling and harmonising proven approaches. Among other things, through cooperation with international and local initiatives, organisations and partners that are also committed to sustainability, including the Fair Labor Association, Fair Wear Foundation, Responsible Business Alliance, ILO and Sustainable Apparel Coalition. In addition to its global activities, the IGS is working in Bangladesh, Vietnam, Cambodia and Serbia. Four fields of action are particularly emphasised:

Shared Responsibility

The IGS supports purchasing and manufacturing companies to preventively address or mitigate human rights and environmental risks, such as gender-based violence, excessive overtime, low wages or high greenhouse gas emissions. To this end, the IGS puts into practice models of shared responsibility between buying and supplying companies, for example to increase wages through improved purchasing practices.

Data & Transparency

Reliable and standardised supply chain data is a prerequisite for sound risk analysis and for measuring progress towards greater sustainability. Therefore, the IGS promotes transparency in supply chains, fosters industry-wide standards and improves the availability and quality of data. For example, the IGS develops and disseminates open data standards for the harmonised collection of social and environmental indicators. In trainings, suppliers learn how to collect, analyse and report reliable data.





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Further
Information
here

Responsible Business Hubs

The IGS is setting up local helpdesks in the four focus countries Bangladesh, Serbia, Cambodia and Vietnam that enable implementation at scale by matching local manufacturers with service providers. In addition, the helpdesks inform, raise awareness, and advise manufacturing companies about the standards and requirements of HREDD. The helpdesks are part of the Responsible Business Hub Network, which aims to promote a common understanding of due diligence in all countries and to harmonise measures. This also enables the replication of helpdesks in further countries.

Effective Complaints Mechanisms

Until now, workers have often not been able to report violations of labour and environmental standards. The IGS wants to change this and is working with companies, industry initiatives and civil society organisations to establish, develop and harmonise internal and external complaints mechanisms.

Examples of results so far

The IGS supported the development of the [Open Supply Hub](#) (OS Hub). The platform serves as a freely accessible, global registry for reliable supply chain data, which increases the transparency of supply chains and promotes global collaboration.

The local helpdesks in Cambodia and Vietnam are already in place. They inform and support supplying companies in the implementation of due diligence.

Roundtables and other events with stakeholders from business and politics took place in the focus countries and in Germany to provide information about due diligence and its implementation.

Objectives of the IGS



250.000

Workers are exposed to fewer risks in the workplace



150

Companies integrate sustainability indicators in their data management



125.000

Workers get access to complaints mechanisms

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