

Project Assignment

Fairtrade Textile Standard Review

(Dec. 2024)

This project assignment contains the most important information about the project. For additional information on the project, please contact the project managers (contact details below).

The project will be carried out according to the Standard Operating Procedures for the Development of Fairtrade Standards/Minimum Prices and Premiums. More information on these procedures can be found on the website:

https://files.fairtrade.net/standards/SOP_Development_Fairtrade_Standards.pdf

Rationale for and justification of need for the project:

The Fairtrade Textile Standard was published in 2016 and is due for review according the regular review cycle. The locally-led Cotton and Textile coalition advises for a revision of the standard that looks into reformulating the offer for textiles in an evolving market, which is fit for purpose and is able to generate traction and growth for the product category.

The commitment needed from actors in the supply chain to all requirements of the standard incl. ambitious requirements on Living wage etc., led to a rather slow uptake of the standard by potential supply chains. The review will consider initial ideas on how the standard can be adapted so that it is practical for all actors in the supply chain, including those where Fairtrade operations are still a very small part of their business and those that are only involved in a very small part of the whole process; as a result make implementation more accessible and thus ultimately bring more benefits to all workers. The review of the textile standard needs to also consider and include the evolving external regulations such as HREDD laws in the EU, and at the same time voluntary governmental schemes such as the Green Button in Germany which influence the shaping of requirements for operators in the whole textile supply chain.

Risk assessment:

1. The high ambition of the Fairtrade Textile Standard hinders practical implementation on the ground and thus potentially restricts progress towards living wage and other benefits of the standard.

Mitigation: Careful evaluation of the producer and supply chain reality and ambitions of the Standard and find a middle ground through consultation with all actors. All recommendations from the Fairtrade Textile Standard: Pre-Consultation Research – Final Proposals will be taken into account.

2. Due to the limited number of certified entities, the consultation might not be representative for textile operators in general.

Mitigation: Consultation with all certified operators and include potential interested parties as much as possible, including consultation with actors from civil society and all interested parties.

Project Start Event:

Draft Project Assignment will be uploaded to the FI website for comments by stakeholders

Project Start Date:

Nov. 2024

Project End Event:

Publication of the revised Standard

Project End Date:

Q4 2025

Project Goal:

The revision of the Fairtrade Textile Standard is a key instrument to align the standard with the market needs and producer realities. The revision will focus on developing a standard that is practical for implementation for all supply chain actors and seeking to bring as much benefit to as many workers as possible. The revision will incorporate the learnings of the first years of implementation, update and align it with external regulatory and market developments.

Objectives

- Address all topics captured in the Monitoring Log of the Textile Standard
- Incorporate requirements on Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence
- Assess external regulations and schemes relevant for the development of Fairtrade Standards
- Address topics and recommendations from the pre-consultation research study, particularly looking at:
 - redeveloping the offer to reach larger impact for workers;
 - practicality for the industry to adopt;
 - market needs and comparison with other schemes, this includes the following topics:
 - Supply Chain
 - Certification Requirements for Additional Entities
 - Living Wage
 - Responsible Fibers
 - Geographic Scope
 - Worker Rights and Empowerment
 - Environmental/Climate Requirements

Connection with Theory of Change (ToC):

This project is connected to the Fairtrade Goals which are to foster sustainable livelihoods, make trade fair and build Fairtrade markets.

For more information on Fairtrade's ToC see this [link](#).

Project scope:

The project covers all regions and products where the Fairtrade Textile Standard applies. This standard is applicable in countries and regions where freedom of association is possible.

For more information on Fairtrade Standards click this [link](#).

Out of scope:

Fairtrade Trader Standard review
 Fairtrade Fibre crops Standard review
 Fairtrade Contract production Standard review
 Fairtrade Minimum Price and Premium reviews

Project timelines and information on opportunities to contribute:

Scoping: pre-consultation study (2024)

Research: Jan.-Feb. 2025

Consultation*: March 2025

Analysis of results: April 2025

Drafting final proposal: May 2025

Decision by the Standards Committee: June

Decision making process:

The final decision will be taken by the Standards Committee (SC), a body made up of stakeholder representatives. The SC will aim at making a decision based on consensus. They may reword the final proposal if needed to reach consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, the SC will resort to voting.

<p>2025</p> <p>Publication: September 2025</p> <p>Implementation: Jan. 2026</p> <p>* More information will be provided closer to the consultation period on our website. If you are identified as key stakeholders, you will receive an invitation to participate.</p>											
<p>Project Owner (Unit):</p> <p>Alina Amador, Head of Standards</p>	<p>Project Managers (contact point for the project):</p> <p>Project oversight - Kerstin Cron, Sr. Project Manager Standards</p> <p>Content development - Rohini Chandrasekaran</p>										
<p>Project Team (Unit):</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="188 864 767 1301"> <tr> <td>Fairtrade International</td> <td>Tobias Meier - GPM Cotton/Textiles</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PNs</td> <td>Subhra Tudu - NAPP</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FMOs</td> <td>Abishek Jani and Rohini Chandrasekaran – Fairtrade India Maria Steenpass - Fairtrade Germany</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NFOs</td> <td>Sophie Maillard - Max Havelaar France</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FLOCERT</td> <td>Neetu Pankaj Singh</td> </tr> </table>	Fairtrade International	Tobias Meier - GPM Cotton/Textiles	PNs	Subhra Tudu - NAPP	FMOs	Abishek Jani and Rohini Chandrasekaran – Fairtrade India Maria Steenpass - Fairtrade Germany	NFOs	Sophie Maillard - Max Havelaar France	FLOCERT	Neetu Pankaj Singh	<p>Project Environment (stakeholder groups not part of the project team):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Certified operators under the Fairtrade Textile Standard - Wilbert Flinterman -Senior Advisor Workers Rights and Trade Unions - Global Impact – tbc - Lilian Maina (tbc) – Social Compliance Manager - Locally Led Cotton and Textiles - Standards & Pricing team
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