

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 particularly 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.

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, IGS is particularly working together with companies, chambers and associations in Bangladesh, Vietnam, Cambodia, Serbia and other countries. Through an integrated due diligence facility, individual cooperation projects are implemented with EU member states, development partners, the private sector and civil society to support companies in fulfill-

ing their due diligence obligations. The substantial network of the IGS makes it possible to build on existing and new partnerships, to scale approaches and to learn from each other. The IGS comprehensively supports the social and ecological transformation of the private sector (Just Transition) to achieve the goals of decent work and climate neutrality. In addition, many measures are specifically designed to promote the feminist development policy of the BMZ. This includes informing workers, especially women, along the supply chain about their rights and providing resources to support and strengthen local worker representation. The IGS is active in four fields of action:

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.



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Further
Information
[here](#)

Responsible Business Helpdesks (RBH)

By setting up local helpdesks, the IGS supports manufacturers by matching them with service providers. In addition, the RBH inform, raise awareness and advise manufacturing companies about the standards and requirements of HREDD. The helpdesks are part of the Responsible Business Helpdesk 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 Grievance 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 grievance mechanisms.

Examples of results so far

- The first RBH were opened in Bangladesh, Vietnam, Cambodia and Serbia. Further helpdesks are being planned in Tunisia, Mexico, Pakistan and Turkey. 350 companies have already benefited from the advice services offered by the RBH.
- Through models of shared responsibility, almost 400,000 workers are exposed to fewer risks in the workplace.
- Almost 300,000 workers have better access to grievance mechanisms.
- The IGS also supported the development of the [Open Supply 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.

Objectives of the IGS



425,000

Workers are exposed to fewer risks in the workplace



150

Companies integrate sustainability indicators in their data management



500,000

Workers get access to grievance mechanisms



350

Companies take advantage of the RBH services

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