

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR SUPPLY CHAIN TRANSFORMATION 2016-2020

1. What is the Strategic Partnership?

The Strategic Partnership for Supply Chain Transformation is an innovative programme to improve corporate and government policies regarding human rights compliance in apparel supply chains. Combining the expertise of trade unions, NGOs, and progressive brands and factories, the partnership aims to demonstrate how movement towards **living wages, gender equality, and healthy labour relations and social dialogue** is possible. With a focus on practical innovations in real supply chains, the partnership will provide models to brands, factories, governments and the labour movement of how a more equitable apparel industry could work - and could benefit all parties.

The five-year effort, led by Fair Wear Foundation, Dutch trade unions Mondiaal FNV and CNV Internationaal and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, includes a varied network of organisations in Europe and in eight garment-producing countries in Asia and Africa.

2. What will be the benefits of the Strategic Partnership to FWF's current work?

The Strategic Partnership is designed to **develop practical solutions to key problems** in garment supply chains, and to **support a more evidence-based dialogue** between civil society, government and business. Based on cooperation and dialogue between trade unions, labour NGOs, and progressive clothing brands and factories, the partnership is **designed to bridge the gap** between the European and Asian ends of garment supply chains. FWF is able to **test new ideas** for improving human rights compliance that require coordinated action between European and Asian actors. The Strategic Partnership will include pilot projects and research; enhancements to FWF's core verification work; and expanded activity in Asia. Advocacy and education efforts towards government and industry actors will help to share the lessons learned by FWF and its members about how to improve human rights compliance in garment supply chains.

3. Why is FWF partnering with trade unions?

Mondiaal FNV and CNV Internationaal – who have long helped to govern FWF – are particularly well-suited to help develop evidence-based lobby and advocacy strategies that help bridge the gap between different stakeholder groups. Years of experience in working with organisations in garment-producing countries as partners also mean improved skills in finding an optimal balance between local and international knowledge that benefits both themselves and their local partners.



4. Where is the Strategic Partnership active?

Activities in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Pakistan and Ethiopia are covered by the Strategic Partnership. Fair Wear Foundation will focus on work in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Myanmar and Vietnam, countries where FWF members have significant production and FWF has developed local networks.

5. Will FWF's work in other countries be affected?

The Strategic Partnership can be seen as an enhancement of FWF's activities in five production countries, providing opportunities for pilot and research projects, and greater work with national stakeholders. However, FWF will continue all existing work in China, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Romania, Tunisia and Turkey.

The lessons learned in the Strategic Partnership countries will have applications in all countries where FWF is active, and will benefit garment workers and FWF members in all countries.

6. What does the Strategic Partnership mean for me as member?

The Strategic Partnership will allow FWF to provide more effective support to members, and to significantly expand activity in Indonesia and Myanmar. Members will also have the opportunities to participate in pilot projects and research projects, which will test out innovative ways of improving labour conditions, with support from FWF. Within the focus areas of living wages, gender equality, and labour relations/social dialogue, members will have the opportunity to develop advanced skills, and to lead the industry.

7. How will activities be reflected in the Brand Performance Check??

The Strategic Partnership won't affect your Brand Performance Check results. Brands' effort/involvement in testing new ideas/ projects will be recognized and awarded in existing indicators related to payment of living wages, improvement of gender equality at work, and healthy labour relations.

8. What are the pilot projects?

Each pilot is different, depending on the country, the theme, and the members' relationship with the factory. In general, FWF is looking for projects that can show how to go about improving working conditions, to ensure that there is evidence-based knowledge to go forward and continue improving supply chains in the garment industry.

9. How can I show my interest in participating in the pilot project?

If you have an idea about a project that you think could work at one or more of your suppliers that are based in a Strategic Partnership country, let your FWF contact person know. He or she can give you further information, help you assess the situation and set up the project.



10. What about the finances?

FWF's Strategic Partnership involves a grant from the Dutch government. This budget is divided over five years between the three partners. FWF, as leading partner, receives a larger share of the budget, and will use this money to develop projects and research in collaboration with partners Mondiaal FNV and CNV Internationaal, and local partners in the countries where the Strategic Partnership is at work. FWF will coordinate and facilitate the work of local partners wherever possible. But most importantly, FWF will continue to work with its members to find ways to better cooperate with these local and international organisations and stakeholders. The aim is to help local civil society organisations build capacity so that they can continue their work even after the Strategic Partnership has ended. The aim is to create self-sustaining change that can be used as an example long after the projects come to a close.

11. How can I stay updated on the current and future planned activities?

FWF will communicate frequently current and future planned activities on its website. FWF will keep you updated via the member newsletter and via your FWF contact person. You can always approach FWF with any questions, comments or ideas.

12. Can I communicate externally about SP and pilots?

Yes, please! All FWF material about pilots will be made available and you can post, share and like at will.