



Project Description:

Embellished Apparel, Fashion Jewelry and Home Textiles Standard Development

BACKGROUND

About GoodWeave: GoodWeave International (GWI) is a non-governmental organization working to end child labor in supply chains. Since it was founded two decades ago, GoodWeave's proven market-based system has resulted in an 80% decline in child labor prevalence in the South Asian carpet sector. The system is based on partnering with business and fully mapping and monitoring all supply chain tiers, from factories down to homeworkers. In doing so, GoodWeave ensures compliance with a rigorous no child, forced and bonded labor standard. GoodWeave offers educational opportunities to children, and upholds improved working conditions for adult workers. In parallel with improving working conditions, GoodWeave works to improve efficiency of production, encouraging suppliers and sub-contractors to continue sourcing from communities of informal workers.

Currently, GoodWeave partners with 130 brands worldwide, claims 9% of the market for handmade rugs, and reaches 47,000 workers in India, Nepal and Afghanistan. GoodWeave's child rehabilitation and education programs have directly removed 3,700 children from servitude and provided an additional 16,000 children with educational opportunities.

Expansion of GoodWeave Model: In 2016, GoodWeave announced expansion plans to bring its proven model and methodology into more sectors, supporting the Sustainable Development Goals that include ending child labor in all forms by 2025. The latest projects include two pilots in northern India: one with C&A, a leading clothing brand, to tackle child, forced and bonded labor in apparel and fashion jewelry supply chains, particularly at the homemaker level, as well as a pilot in the home textiles sector. The apparel and fashion jewelry pilot commenced in April 2016 and will include at least three producers in five communities in northern India reaching and supporting an estimated 7,500 homeworkers and 6,000 children. The home textiles pilot is also taking place in northern India with a goal of reaching up to three producers. The pilots include field testing the applicability of the existing GoodWeave [Generic International Standard for Rug Producers Version 3.0](#) within new supply chains, with a specific focus on informal homebased production. Pilot audits were conducted in November and December 2016. Additional field testing and pilot auditing is ongoing and will continue to inform the standard development project.

STANDARD DEVELOPMENT: Project Objective and Scope

A key output of GoodWeave's expansion will be a standard applicable to all tiers of production to codify the requirements that participating suppliers must adhere to with respect to child labor, forced/bonded labor, transparency and other related labor rights. When developing standards, GoodWeave follows the provisions of the [ISEAL Standard-Setting Code](#) in order to ensure the best practices are followed including the highest degree of rigor and transparency. The standard development process will incorporate learnings from the field testing. Additionally, GoodWeave will conduct benchmarking to identify similar or comparable standards and initiatives, to identify whether any other existing standards identified apply to full apparel or fashion jewelry supply chains, including homebased production. GoodWeave's goal is to build on the work of peer standard development organizations, seek harmonization where possible and avoid duplication. Building on field testing and benchmarking research, the GoodWeave Standards Committee (SC) will determine whether to develop a new standard to apply specifically to new sectors separately, or to adapt its generic rug standard to apply to a broader range of products.

RISKS ASSESSMENT

1. There is a risk that production site owners may be unwilling to share information with GoodWeave inspectors where no license obligates them to do so.

Mitigation: The developed standard will need to incentivize engagement by providing access to new markets, a productive worker pool as well as offering assistance in adapting business practices to meet the new standard.

2. There is a risk that participating production sites have varying capabilities to meet the GoodWeave Standard considering the differences in type of production facilities (e.g., factories, dedicated centers, homeworkers).

Mitigation: Development of the standard will need to account for the context of the small scale of operations at the homeworker level and within associated dedicated centers, which will include developing ways to determine the existence of risks to workers of discrimination or mistreatment rather than assessing evidence of positive measures such as polices.

3. There is a risk that the complexity of the supply chain, with multiple tiers linking the supplier to the license holder, dilutes the delivery of benefits to the intended beneficiaries and increases challenges in assurance in compliance.

Mitigation: GoodWeave will maintain the strictest adherence to its model when developing the standard and ensure community and stakeholder engagement at all levels of the project. GoodWeave will also explore alternative standard structures to best address the different supply chain actors.

STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholder engagement is critical for a robust process. Stakeholders in this project include beneficiaries of the standard, potential and future licensees, relevant government and non-governmental organizations, trade unions, other experienced voluntary standard setters, internal and external experts, funders and the general public. The table below maps the different

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stakeholders into three tiers. Tier one reflects the central stakeholders that are most impacted by a standard.

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers (Homeworkers in particular) • Dedicated Center Owners and other Subcontractors • Exporters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local NGOs • Local Government • Local Trade Unions • Apparel, Fashion Jewelry and Home Textiles Importers • Apparel, Fashion Jewelry and Home Textiles Brands • Other voluntary social standard setting organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GWI Licensees • GWI Board + Committees • GWI India Board • Funders • Independent experts • International Trade Associates • International NGOS • General Public • Multilateral & Bilateral Organizations

PROJECT TIMELINE

2016	October	Announcement of standard development process
	November – January	Field test GoodWeave Standard (checklists and verification system documents)
2017	February	Publish approved Project Description
	March	Present standard proposal to SC for feedback and approval
	April – May	Consultation 1 on draft standard – Compliance Principles A1-A3 (60 days)
	June	GWJ review feedback with SC Revise draft Standard
	August	Consultation 2 on revised draft Standard including Progress Principles (30 days)
	September – October	GWJ review feedback with SC and prepare final draft Resolve outstanding issues

Comments on the Project Description

Interested parties may comment on the Project Description by emailing Samantha@GoodWeave.org. There will be opportunities to comment on the Draft Standard during the public consultation periods. All comments will be considered in the next revision of the Draft Standard.