



## Project Description Summary

### 2023-2024 Standard Revision: GoodWeave International Generic Standard

#### BACKGROUND

##### **About GoodWeave International:**

GoodWeave International (GWI or GoodWeave) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1994 by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kailash Satyarthi. GoodWeave is the leading global institution working to end child labor in global supply chains through a market-based and holistic system. We bring visibility to global supply chains, protect workers' rights, provide assurance that certified products are free of child, forced and bonded labor, and restore childhoods. Over nearly 30 years of harnessing market power through its work with brands, licensees and exporters, GoodWeave has restored freedom to over 10,000 children, directly provided educational opportunities to more than 78,500 children, and deterred hundreds of thousands of children from entering labor.

GoodWeave works actively in carpet, home textile, and apparel and fashion jewelry supply chains in partnership with producer communities in South Asia and more than 420 companies globally. We also build capacity of other supply chain players to bring our best practice methodologies into additional industries. GoodWeave is a leading voice influencing best practices in eliminating child and forced labor from global supply chains.

GoodWeave is [ISEAL](#) Code Compliant. Our system has been independently evaluated against [ISEAL's Codes of Good Practice](#) – a globally-recognized framework for effective, credible sustainability systems.

##### **Review of the GWI Generic Standard:**

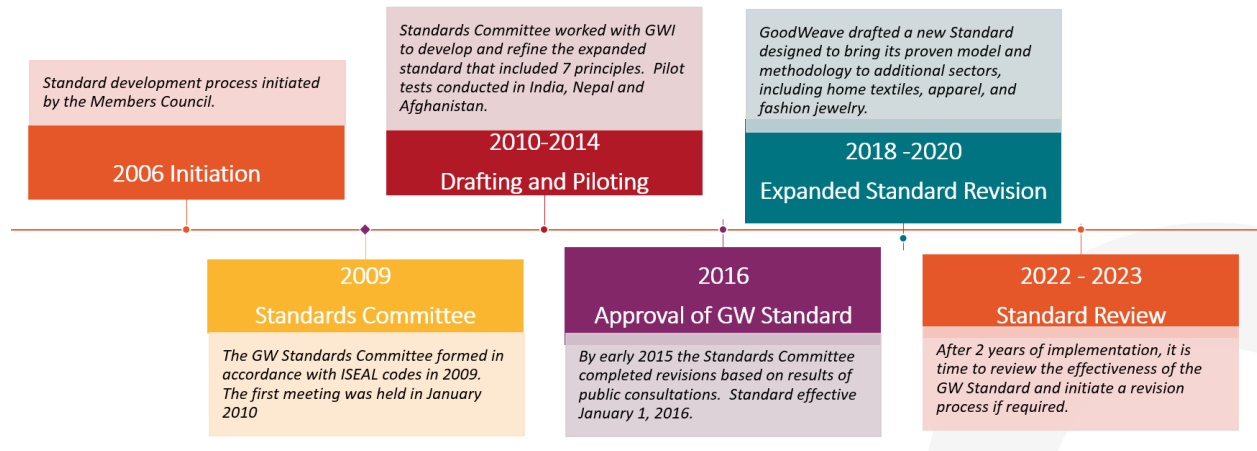
In May 2019, the GoodWeave International Generic Standard Version 1.1 (the Standard) entered into force. Initially, GoodWeave planned a review of the Standard after one year of implementation to understand its feasibility and impact on GoodWeave Licensed Exporters and their subcontracted supply chains. Unfortunately, this review was delayed due the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for GWI Country Offices to implement audits and inspections remotely for nearly two years.

In late 2022, GWI Country Offices returned fully to on-site audits and inspections, enabling a true implementation of the new version of the Standard, and the collection of reliable data on



producer performance against the new set of requirements. By year's end, the GWI Secretariat reinstated the GWI Standards Committee and commenced the Standard review process following the ISEAL Codes of Good Practice.

Figure 1: A brief history of Standard Development at GoodWeave



From September – December 2022 the GoodWeave Secretariat conducted an in-depth internal review of the Standard and its implementation following the process outlined in *GW SOP02 Development of Standards*. This comprehensive Standard Review included:

- desk research (ChainPoint data<sup>1</sup>, audit reports, issue logs, etc.),
- benchmarking against GoodWeave Strategy and Theory of Change,
- a presentation to the GoodWeave Board of Directors,
- a country visit to India and Nepal by the Director of Standards and Certification, and
- interviews with key staff from GoodWeave India, Nepal and the GWI Secretariat.

In conclusion, the review process confirmed that significant changes to the standard are required, and on December 20, 2022, the GoodWeave Executive Leadership Team formally approved the revision of the GoodWeave Standard.

## RATIONALE AND NEEDS JUSTIFICATION

The review process confirmed the need for a Standard revision, identifying the following needs:

<sup>1</sup> ChainPoint is the GWI information management system used during audits to collect data from worksites during onsite and remote audits and inspections.



- Align all Principles and Criteria with the Standard Objectives and the GoodWeave [Theory of Change](#) to ensure clarity and understanding of scope and drive continuous improvement of producers.
- Align all Principles and Criteria with applicable laws and legislations in both producer and sourcing countries.
- Consider the size and capacity of producers when determining mandatory principles and requirements rather than solely the tier of the subcontracted supply chain.
- Elevate working hours, wages and benefits to a certification principle to adequately evaluate and address common risk indicators of forced and bonded labor.
- Introduce management system requirements for larger, more formal business entities.
- Reduce overly prescriptive requirements and focus on outcome-based criteria.
- Review standard language to ensure consistency and comprehension by users.

## OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

When developing standards, GoodWeave follows the guidelines of the [ISEAL Standard-Setting Code](#) to ensure best practices are followed including the highest degree of rigor and transparency.

The objective of the 2023 Standard revision will be to ensure that the Standard's Certification Requirements and Progress Criteria ultimately strengthen the advancement on eliminating child, forced and bonded labor.

The following are the proposed areas of change to be explored:

- Elevate Working Hours, Wages and Benefits to a Certification Principle.
- Ensure alignment of Progress Principles and Standard Objectives.
- Identify and implement improved approaches to identify human rights violations.
- Consider the size and capacity of producers for each principle and requirement (number of workers, production capacity, annual turnover, etc).
- Benchmark Standard requirements against developing legislations and other reputable sustainability standards.
- Include new requirements for larger business entities to develop and implement supply chain management systems.
- Explore the concept of "Shared Responsibility" for full supply chain compliance.



## STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholder engagement is critical for an authentic and wholistic process. Stakeholders in this project include beneficiaries of the standard, licensees, relevant government and non-governmental organizations, trade unions, other experienced voluntary standard setters, internal and external experts, victims and survivors, funders and the general public.

The table below maps the different stakeholders into three groups. Group A reflects the central stakeholders that are most impacted by a standard.

Group A	Group B	Group C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workers (Homeworkers in particular)</li> <li>Victims and survivors</li> <li>Licensees, subcontractors and home-based worksites</li> <li>Exporters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local NGOs</li> <li>Local Government</li> <li>Local Trade Unions</li> <li>Importers</li> <li>Brands</li> <li>Other voluntary social standard setting organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GWI Importer Licensees</li> <li>GWI Board + Committees</li> <li>GWI India Board</li> <li>Funders</li> <li>Independent experts</li> <li>International Trade Associates</li> <li>International NGOS</li> <li>General Public</li> <li>Multilateral &amp; Bilateral Organizations</li> </ul>

## PROJECT TIMELINE

2023	<b>January</b>	Outcomes of the Standard review discussed with the GoodWeave Standards Committee
	<b>February - August</b>	Standard Revision Project Scope and Planning
	<b>September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review planning outcomes with Standards Committee.</li> <li>Announcement of standard development process</li> </ul>
	<b>October-December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish Project Description Summary</li> <li>Draft revised Standard</li> <li>Standard Committee Feedback on Draft</li> <li>Shared Responsibility Working Group Meetings and input</li> </ul>



2024	<b>January-February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted Consultation with the Executive Leadership Team, the Certification Committee and the Board of Directors (International and Affiliate).</li> <li>• GWI reviews and integrates feedback for final draft for consultation.</li> </ul>
	<b>March-April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Public Consultation 1 on draft standard – (60 days)</b></li> <li>• Targeted consultation with select groups of stakeholders.</li> </ul>
	<b>May-June</b>	Review consultation results, incorporate feedback, revise draft standard
	<b>July</b>	SC determines if unresolved issues and/or if a second consultation period is necessary.
	<b>August-September</b>	<b>Public consultation 2 - (30-60 days)</b>
	<b>October-November</b>	Pilot new standard requirements.
	<b>December</b>	Incorporate final input where required and finalize standard for publication and implementation.

## DECISION MAKING PROCEDURE

GoodWeave follows our [Development of Standards Procedure \(SOP02\)](#) for decision making and approval process of all GoodWeave Standards being developed or revised.

The GoodWeave Standards Committee (SC) is responsible, along with the GWI Secretariat, to develop and revise GoodWeave Standards. The SC is a permanent committee of GWI and is composed of representatives from key stakeholder groups. The SC is the final decision-making authority on the content of the GoodWeave Standards.

Please see [section 4.6 \(decision-making\) and 4.7 \(approval\) of SOP02](#) and the [Terms of Reference for the SC](#) for more information.

## COMMENTS ON THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Interested parties may comment on the Project Description by emailing [Emily.C@GoodWeave.org](mailto:Emily.C@GoodWeave.org). There will be opportunities to comment on the Draft Standard during the public consultation periods.