



BETTER BUSINESS FOR CHILDREN IN THE TURKISH APPAREL SECTOR

In an effort to enhance the respect for children's rights and jointly prevent and mitigate child labour risks in the Turkish garment and textile sector, UNICEF and three Dutch clothing brands are – with financial support from RVO - joining forces.

This collaborative project starts with mapping out the Turkish supply chain of the participating retail brands, after which a baseline assessment will be conducted identifying child rights violations and risks in various parts of the production chain. This will be followed by the drafting and implementation of an action plan whereby the most salient risks are prioritized and mitigated using UNICEF's family friendly workplace approach. All steps of the project will be conducted with support of a local organisation specialised in this field.

The project supports UNICEF's mission to defend children's rights worldwide, fits within the Turkish National Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour and supports the CSR mission of the participating brands and suppliers.

Children's rights in the Turkish garment and textile sector

In the Turkish garment and textiles sector risks of violation of children's rights are known to exist for vulnerable Turkish and refugee communities. The socio-economic impact of Covid-19 on disadvantaged families including Syrian refugees exacerbates the existing risks. School enrolment, family friendly workplaces, working conditions and preventing families and children resorting to negative coping mechanisms such as child labour, are important issues requiring constant attention of all stakeholders.

Working on children's rights in the garment and textile sector is a challenge, due to the fact the garment and textile supply chains are likely to be highly fragmented, with many big producers outsourcing to smaller factories or home-based workers.

Against the background of this complex and dynamic environment, UNICEF Turkey adopts a comprehensive approach working at multiple levels and sectors. This project is situated in UNICEF's broader multi-sectoral strategy on the elimination of child labour.

This project is based on the **Children's Rights and Business Principles (CRBP)**. A set of 10 voluntary principles developed by UNICEF, the UN Global Compact and Save the Children. The CRBP framework guides companies on the full range of actions they can take in order to respect and support children's rights - **the working environment** (within the walls of the factory), **the community** (around the production location), and **the marketplace** (where the product is sold). The CRBP guidelines offer a starting point for the analysis and development of responsible business practices, where children's rights are respected and wellbeing of families and children are improved.

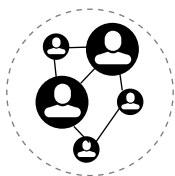
Our project towards sustainable change for children



Project phase A will result in a mapping of the supply chains of the participating brands and a risk assessment indicating the risks in that particular supply chains. Based on these results and within the sphere of influence of all participants, the most salient risks on violation of children's rights will be prioritized for action in project phase B.



Project phase B will focus – in collaboration with a local implementor - on the risks identified in project phase A. This will be done through implementation of UNICEF's family friendly workplace approach in the selected production location(s), and where needed involve higher tiers.



In addition to its direct impact on children in project phase A and B, the best practices and lessons of this project will be used to contribute to evidence-based policy development at international, national and sub-national levels. For example, they will inform actions embedded in the Turkish National Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour. Also supply chains of the brands and in MSI's such as the Dutch Covenant or WNCB programme will make use of findings and suggestions of the project.

"Improving the respect for children's rights in the garment and textile sector starts with creating better business. This project links the efforts of Dutch clothing brands to the national approach of our Turkish colleagues. In doing so, we are multiplying the positive impacts on the lives of children."

Suzanne Laszlo - Executive Director UNICEF the Netherlands

"This project supports our mission to work on transparency in the supply chain and offer good quality products, that have been bought and produced with respect for children's rights."

Participating Dutch garment brands

"This project supports the transparency of our supply chain and helps us improving conditions and procedures to enhance the respect for children's rights and to jointly prevent and mitigate child labour risks in our supply chain."

Participating production location (of a similar project in Bangladesh)

Contact us

If you would like to find out more about this project, please contact:

Jeroen van der Heijden

Child's Rights and Business Specialist
jvanderheijden@unicef.nl

Nelleke Jacobs

Partnership Developer
njacobs@unicef.nl

Dilek Karagöz Küpeli

Social Policy Officer, UNICEF Turkey
dkaragoz@unicef.org