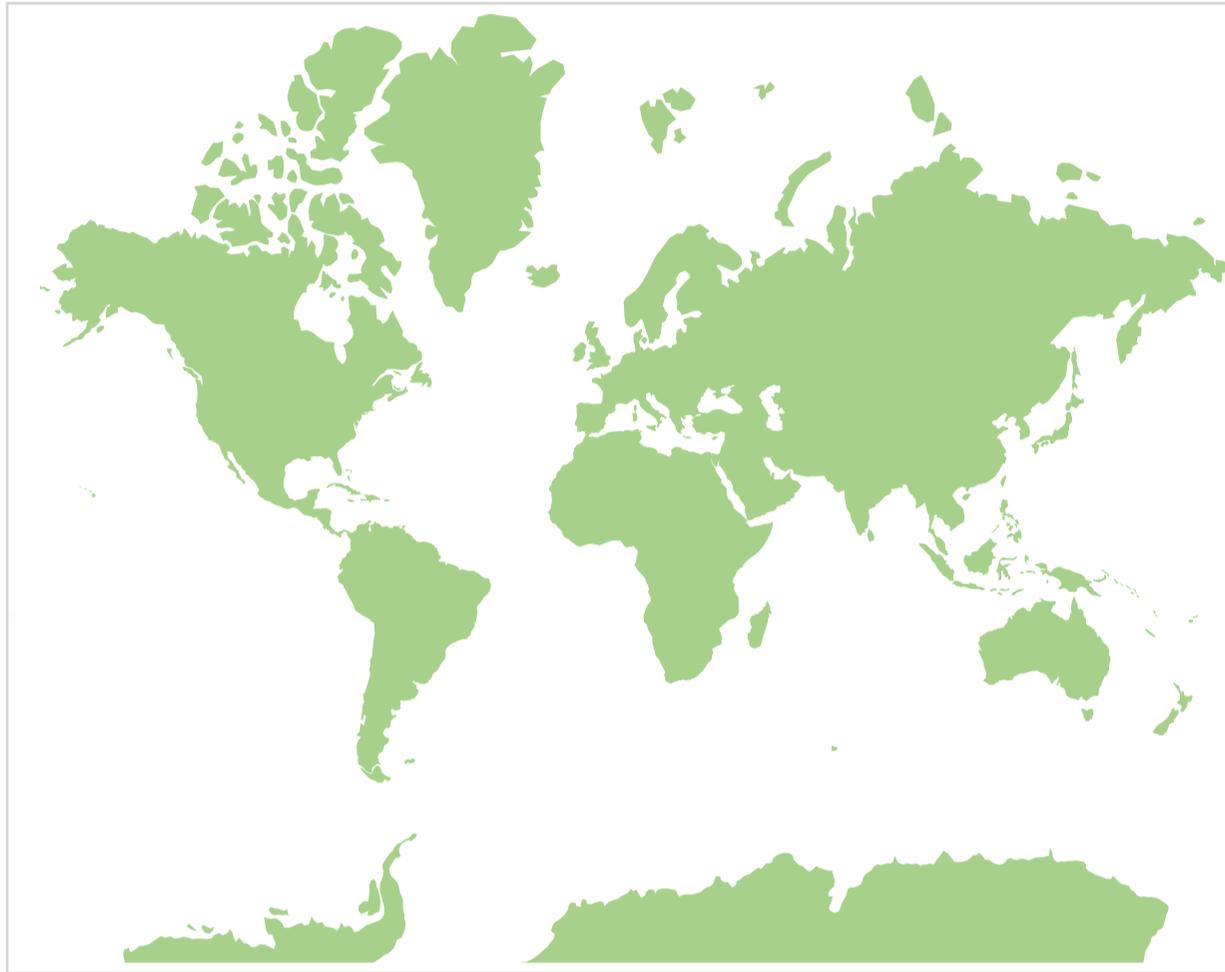


BASIC GUIDE TO THE

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

COMPILED BY TEXTILE EXCHANGE





WHAT ARE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

The Sustainable Development Goals — colloquially known as The Global Goals or the SDGs, and formally named [Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) — is an inter-governmental agreement of the United Nations and 193 countries. The SDGs provide a framework to be implemented by “all countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership” around a set of 17 specific, aspirational goals that address the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. With 169 targets to be met by the year 2030, and over 232 indicators for measuring progress, The Global Goals were designed to stimulate action in the following areas: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. In addition, the themes covered by The Global Goals (which include poverty, hunger, health and wellbeing, education, equality, sanitation, decent work, and production) all reflect current challenges and risks facing the textile value chain. To learn more, visit the UN’s [Sustainable Development website here.](#)

WHAT ARE THE ACTUAL 17 GOALS?

GOAL 1

End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

GOAL 2

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

GOAL 3

Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.

GOAL 4

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

GOAL 5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

GOAL 6

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

GOAL 7

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

GOAL 8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

GOAL 9

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.

GOAL 10

Reduce inequality within and among countries.

GOAL 11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

GOAL 12

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

GOAL 13

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (taking note of agreements made by the UNFCCC forum.)

GOAL 14

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

GOAL 15

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.

GOAL 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

GOAL 17

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.



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WHY DO THE GLOBAL GOALS MATTER TO THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY?

The themes covered by the Global Goals—poverty, hunger, health and wellbeing, education, equality, sanitation, decent work to name a few—all reflect issues that not only impact quality of life, security and fundamental human rights across the globe, but also directly impact the apparel and textile value network, increasingly underscore the urgency to advance many of the themes identified by the Global Goals. According to the recently published [Global Risks Report 2018](#), published by the World Economic Forum, environmental risks continue to dominate the risk landscape in 2018. The Report confirms last year’s trend and identifies “numerous areas where we are pushing systems to the brink, from extinction-level rates of biodiversity loss to mounting concerns about the possibility of new wars.” The top 5 global risks, based on likelihood of occurrence cited in the report, include extreme weather events, natural disasters and failure of climate change mitigation and adaptation. These same risks are also ranked in the top 5 global risks by impact along with the addition of the risk of water crisis.

[Aon’s Global Risk Management Survey 2017](#), which identifies the top ten risks facing the textile sector, identify damage to reputation and/or brand and corporate social responsibility and sustainability as top risks.

Aon has identified linkages to economic, environmental and social factors such as climate change, which directly correlate to the themes underlying Global Goals. One example is that corporate social responsibility and sustainability risk can arise from environmental risk, climate change and natural resource scarcity and/or availability of raw materials.

When aligned with existing individual company priorities, Global Goals can offer opportunities for new business models, support innovation, reduce risks and ensure more resilient value chains. According to the 2017’s [Better Business, Better World](#) report, from the Business & Sustainable Development Commission, “The goals provide the private sector with a new growth strategy that opens valuable market opportunities while creating a world that is both sustainable and inclusive.” The report evaluates 60 “hotspots” in four economic areas (food and agriculture; cities; energy and materials; and health and well-being) that could create at least US \$12 trillion (or more than 10% of current GDP) in new market opportunities. While the report does not address apparel and textiles, there are important lessons for our industry in light of the fact that the crosscutting themes of the Global Goals will require the cooperation of actors across all sectors.

ARE THE DIFFERENT GOALS CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER?

The Global Goals should be considered one integrated system. There is an evolving area of research on the various linkages among the 17 goals, and their respective targets, which can help identify priority areas and also areas where tradeoffs may occur. This body of information is increasingly important in identifying where investments can deliver the greatest impact toward one or more goals. A well-cited diagram of The Global Goals as a network of targets was recently published by David Le Blanc, a Senior Sustainable Development Officer in the Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs ([DESA](#)), and his recent mapping of the linkages for Goal 14, which calls for conserving and sustainably using oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, shows the complex interdependencies.

Similarly, a recent [science-based analysis](#) by the International Council for Science (ICSU) of four goals and their interlinkages concludes that the goals and targets are “mostly synergistic” with other goals and targets, with 316 target-level interactions overall, of which 238 are positive, 66 are negative, and 12 are neutral. Evaluating the interlinkages and their impacts can provide important direction on targeted investments. Noting linkages and tradeoffs will also allow parties to identify different points of intervention.

HOW MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON THE GOALS SO FAR?

A report is issued annually by the Secretary General during the UN’s High-level Political Forum (HLPF), the platform that reviews progress on The Global Goals by Member States and the UN’s specialized agencies. While the [latest report](#) notes that there has been some progress towards achieving the goals, the current pace of progress will not achieve them by 2030. It is, therefore, incumbent on the private sector to fulfill its role in partnership with other global actors. In July of 2018, the UN will be reviewing progress on the following goals in addition to GOAL 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development), which is reviewed annually:

GOAL 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

GOAL 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

GOAL 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

GOAL 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

GOAL 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

At Textile Exchange, we have analyzed and mapped the Global Goals and accompanying targets specifically to the textile industry, taking into account linkages and tradeoffs with other goals where possible. For more information, please go to textileexchange.org/sdgs.