

# Project Fact Sheet



Funded by the European Union



**SMART**  
Textile & Garments

## SMART Textile & Garments

### Quick facts

<b>Project name</b>	<b>Sustainability</b> <b>M</b> ore consumer awareness <b>A</b> ccountability <b>R</b> esponsibility and <b>T</b> ransparency in the <b>textile &amp; garment</b> sector
<b>Funded by</b>	80% European Union funded, co-financed by private sector retailers and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>Budget</b>	approx. 1.8 million EUR
<b>Duration</b>	May 2019 - December 2022
<b>Lead agency</b>	 sequa gGmbH
<b>Partners</b>	 EuroCham Myanmar  CESD - Centre for Economic and Social Development
<b>Training team</b>	13 full-time local technical experts implement factory assessment and advisory programs and training workshops. Capacities of 8 or more external local experts are expanded.
<b>Major factory programmes</b>	<b>SMART Management Systems Programme</b> , options include... <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social compliance</li><li>• Workplace communications</li></ul> <b>SMART Environmental Management Programme</b> , options include... <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chemical Management &amp; Detox</li><li>• Energy, Water and Waste Efficiency</li></ul>
<b>Additional activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Facilitate stakeholder dialogue</li><li>• Research on textile value chain</li><li>• SMART Transparency Database</li><li>• EU consumer awareness on sustainable purchasing practices</li><li>• Support for worker grievance mechanisms</li></ul>



### Major objectives

SMART improves working conditions in the textile and garment sector in Myanmar. The project strives to improve compliance with social and environmental standards and transparency at factory level in Myanmar. Furthermore, consumers in Europe increase their knowledge and awareness on sustainable fashion. Actors along the value chain in Europe and Myanmar improve their collaboration on social and environmental performance in supply chains, advocate and replicate successful sustainable practices within the garment and textile sector.

### Selection of achievements

- Staff of SMART launched the EU Myan Ku Fund, a 10 million EUR pandemic response programme that supported over 90,000 unemployed garment and textile workers with 153,000 direct cash and voucher payments from May, 2020 until May, 2022.
- Approx. 300 total apparel factories employing roughly 350,000 workers have participated in advisory or support programmes initiated by SMART since mid-2019.
- Since 2019, over 70 factories have participated in SMART's factory programmes on social and environmental performance improvements, receiving technical assessments, training and implementing hundreds of improvements.
- During 2020, SMART helped secure the reinstatement of nearly 300 unfairly dismissed trade union members, with full backpay, from 3 different factories.
- A special programme was initiated in mid-2021 to train 372 managers and worker representatives from 56 factories to adapt to the evolving pandemic threat and prepare for Covid-19 vaccination programmes for workers (tens of thousands thereafter vaccinated by participating firms).



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## Current activities in 2022

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- Most on-site factory advisory programmes and training workshops resumed from January, 2022. As of May, 2022, the project office is running 5 separate factory assessment and training teams (over 20 individuals) covering topics such as: social compliance, worker/manager communications and grievance mechanisms, chemicals management, energy efficiency, workplace nutrition programmes, and clinic safety.
  - The project's textile value chain mapping by partner CESD will be updated and conclude.
  - Cooperation with other organizations to develop further, localized, social compliance verification capacities.
  - Special workshops on young worker protection policies, eco-labels, supervisor communication skills, and other topics.
  - With project partner EuroCham Myanmar, increased levels of dialogue with business associations in Europe and dissemination about new standards for supply chain due diligence, from Germany and the European Union.
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In addition to 80% funding by the European Union and co-funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, SMART is co-funded by the following retailers....



BESTSELLER\*

next

PRIMARK\*



INDITEX



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The SMART project is implemented by sequa gGmbH with partners. SMART builds capacities for social and environmental performance improvements across the Myanmar apparel industry.

To read more about SMART visit [www.smartmyanmar.org](http://www.smartmyanmar.org).

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