



MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS | SDG 1

## Decent work for a good life



The number of people living in extreme poverty rose by 115 million in 2020, according to the [World Bank](#) – the first increase since 1999. Over the previous 20 years the number had fallen by one billion, despite a growing global population. A living wage and decent working conditions are essential in order to avoid living in extreme need. Multi-stakeholder partnerships can achieve a great deal in this regard, for instance when they cover the entire value chain.

Extreme poverty is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity, and it is not without reason that the United Nations dedicated the first of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ending poverty. The World Bank defines the extreme poor as anyone having **less than USD 1.90** a day at their disposal. Wars, disasters such as earthquakes and the impacts of climate change all drive people into extreme poverty, but so do circumstances such as exploitation and family misfortune.

People can escape poverty if they are given the opportunity. Access to education, social services and energy are crucial prerequisites. However, when people find work their wages must be sufficiently high to allow them to lead a decent life. Often that is not the case, partly because companies want to maximise their profits and hold their own against global competitors.

### Multi-stakeholder partnerships

Multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) can be an effective instrument for reducing poverty, especially when key players from the realms of politics, business and society all pull in the same direction. MSPs can prepare the ground for change by advocating decent working conditions along the supply chains, developing the necessary regulations and setting a good example.

An MSP can be initiated by companies, associations, academic organisations, civil society organisations and public sector institutions. The added value is obtained from the partners pooling core competencies, experience and resources and thereby achieving greater impact.



#### Partnerships2030 – the MSP platform

On behalf of the [German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development \(BMZ\)](#), the Partnerships2030 project promotes multistakeholder partnerships and thus contributes to implementing the 2030 Agenda. BMZ now promotes around 80 MSPs through the [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ\) GmbH](#) and [Engagement Global – bengo](#). GIZ implements the Partnerships2030 project, supports MSPs and stakeholders in many different ways, creates networks to link them to partners and provides information.



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#### The MSP methodology

MSPs are a form of cooperation in which stakeholders from at least three sectors among civil society, the public sector, the private sector and academia join forces as equals in order to contribute to the common good. An MSP can generate a transformative impact through cooperation geared to the long term.

## Fair and environmentally sound textiles – together and for everyone

The aim of the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles is to improve social and environmental conditions in global textile value chains. It is an example of how MSPs can reduce poverty and contribute to SDG 1.

When the Rana Plaza factory building in Bangladesh collapsed on 24 April 2013, more than 1,000 textile workers died. The images went around the world and focused attention on the social and environmental costs of the textile and clothing industry. In response to this devastating incident, in October 2014 Germany's Federal Development Minister Gerd Müller launched the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles with the intention of improving social and environmental conditions in the industry.



[www.textilbuendnis.com](http://www.textilbuendnis.com)

Since then the Textiles Partnership has grown to around 140 members, including companies and associations, non-governmental organisations, standards organisations, trade unions and the German Federal Government. The Textiles Partnership provides a broad network and support, serving as the first port of call for all companies that wish to assume their environmental and human rights responsibilities along the entire supply chain.

To enable its member companies to fulfil their due diligence obligations, the Textiles Partnership has developed an industry-specific implementation framework and a reporting format (the Review Process). In addition, the members join together in Partnership initiatives and are actively engaged on the ground in the producer countries, for instance in respect of living wages or complaints mechanisms.

The Textiles Partnership also sees itself as a platform for learning and dialogue. Information and experience are processed and shared with all members via webinars and workshops and by means of tools and support material.



The Partnership members work in expert groups and project groups on issues such as the circular economy, natural fibres and climate action. And last but not least, the Textiles Partnership cooperates with other European and international initiatives as well as organisations and other MSPs.

Thanks to the companies' purchasing power, the expertise and contacts of non-governmental organisations and trade unions and the German Government's scope for influence, the Textiles Partnership can achieve significantly more than any individual member could alone.

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