Recognising and Eliminating Risks.

Incidents Report 2025

The website www.textile-incidents.info is online since mid-2024. It is part of the "Multi Actor Partnership (MAP) for improved due diligence implementation in the textile sector via Worker- and Community-based Monitoring with a focus on Bangladesh. However, other relevant production countries are also included. Textile-Incidents.info documents social and environmental violations in the supply chain at factory level and in communities surrounding the factories. The linkage to purchasing companies (brands), certifications and standards (where possible) is recorded and taken into account. The brands / certifications / standards are thus provided with relevant information to remedy the rights violations in the factories of their suppliers and improve the conditions for workers and communities in the vicinity of the factories.

Our review of the year 2025 includes an overview of the specific cases from 2025, including their thematic focus areas as well as the countries, companies, and sustainability standards involved. We also take a look at recent political developments in the field of due diligence processes and their impact on the Incidents List. Finally, we address the response that the Incidents List received in 2025.

About the evidence and cases - an inventory

By the end of 2025, 19 cases had been added to the website's case list. Of these cases, one was a community-based case involving environmental pollution due to a fire at Katamanto secondhand clothing market in Accra / Ghana. The remaining 18 cases concerned labour rights violations in seven different countries (Bangladesh, China, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Uganda).

In addition to the community in Ghana, more than 23.000 workers were affected by the 18 cases. There are known supply relationships with 45 brands/clients: Adidas, Adler, Aldi Nord, Aldi Süd, Amazon, Benetton Group, Bestseller A/S, Bugatti, Capri SRL, C&A, Carrefour, Demotex, El Corte Ingles, Hema, H&M, Intersport, JG Group, Kappa, Lidl, Mango Deutschland GmbH, New Look Retailers, New Yorker, Next, NKD, Nirapon Inc., Orchestra, Otto, Primark, PVH (Calvin Klein), Ralph Lauren Corporation, River Island Holdings Limited, Sainsbury's, Tchibo, Tesco, The GAP Inc., The Very Group, Tom Tailor,

Ulla Popken, Varner AS, VF Corporation, Vegotex, Walmart, Wrangler, Zalando SE, and Zara.

The documented labour rights violations include

- dismissals (Bangladesh, Malaysia)
- sexual harassment (Bangladesh, Uganda)
- unpaid wages (Bangladesh, Uganda, Turkey, Malaysia)
- lack of safety at work (Bangladesh)
- forced labour (China)
- violations of the right to freedom of association and discrimination against trade unions (Bangladesh, Myanmar, Uganda)
- restriction of the right of freedom of assembly, intimidation (Bangladesh)
- factory closure without prior notice (Bangladesh, Sri Lanka)
- abusive overtime (Bangladesh)

Many of the factories in which the labour rights violations occurred have or had certificates or belonged to sustainability standards or Multistakeholder initiatives at the time of the last entry in the Open Supply Hub. These include Bangladesh Accord, Better Cotton, Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI), Cotton on Group, Cotton Made in Africa, Fairtrade, Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), OEKO-TEX 100, Social & Labour Compliance Program (SLCP), STeP by OEKO-TEX®, and World Wide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP).

In addition, several producers are listed in the Open Supply Hub as suppliers to member companies of the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles (PST, German: BNT) and several were required to report under the German Supply Chain Act until the reporting obligation was suspended by the German federal government.

It is important to note that many cases of environmental and labour rights violations reported in publicly available sources do not appear in the Incidents List because the reports do not mention a specific factory name. This is the case, for example, with the numerous factory fires that are repeatedly reported from India, but also from other countries. Fires pose a significant risk in textile production zones — both for workers and for neighbouring residential areas. However, because reports on fires usually mention only the industrial district rather than the specific factory, this risk remains underreported on Textile-Incidents.info.

In total, we received feedback from companies and sustainability standards / multi-stakeholder initiatives on ten cases published on Textile-Incidents.info, which we have incorporated into the respective follow-up sections of the cases. The feedback ranged from denying any business relationship with the respective supplier, to announcing investigations or reporting improvements, and even to denying the alleged grievance itself. In some cases, the processing took several months. In one case, we received a message from a sustainability standard a full two years after the case had been published on the Incidents List, stating that the reported grievance (restriction of freedom of association) did not exist. In several cases, member companies of the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles were affected, as indicated in the respective entries on the Open Supply Hub. However, in at least one case in which we informed the Partnership Secretariat about the grievance, we were not contacted by the affected member company or companies, even though the Secretariat had informed them about the case.

Recent political developments

The year 2025 was marked by setbacks for corporate human rights and environmental due diligence obligations:

- The new federal government in Germany, which took office in spring 2025, announced a weakening of the German Supply Chain Act, including the abolition of reporting obligations. As a consequence, the government agency in charge, BAFA, suspended the review of reports that had already been submitted.
- The EU Parliament elected in 2024 diluted and postponed the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), the European supply chain law. As a result, a large proportion of European companies and companies operating in the EU was removed from the scope of the regulation.
- The German Partnership for Sustainable Textiles (Textilbündnis) expired in its previous form at the end of 2025. This also brings an end to the agreed transparency on member companies' supply chains, previously provided in the form of an aggregated supplier list published via the Open Supply Hub.
- In China, the labour rights organisation China Labour Watch, based in Hong Kong, ceased its operations in summer 2025. This cuts off a key source for the Incidents List regarding labour rights violations in China.

These developments pose a challenge for the Incidents List, as they carry the risk that brands in Germany may scale back their human rights and environment due diligence efforts. Initial information about downsizing CSR departments in companies indicates that this concern is not unfounded.

In this period of headwinds for human rights and environment due diligence, the Incidents List remains a tool for companies to learn about concrete grievances in their supply chains, enabling them to use their leverage to help remedy these issues.

Dialogues, follow-ups and webinars

As part of the overall project, the Incidents List was presented at a side session during the OECD Forum on Due Diligence in the Garment and Footwear Sector. Introductory meetings on the structure of the Incidents List and discussions on potential cooperation were also held with Oeko-Tex, the Clean Clothes Campaign and the Secretariat of the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles.

For companies, the Incidents List was presented in a webinar, and a more in-depth exchange process was conducted with Lidl on the cases of Polo Composite and Fiat Fashion (both located in Bangladesh).

Outreach and outlook

In 2025, the website recorded just under 70,000 page views, which represents a welcome and significant increase compared to the previous year (just under 40,000). The potential to further raise awareness of the Incidents List through social media has not yet been fully tapped. In the future, new cases will be systematically shared on LinkedIn in order to further increase visibility and engagement.

In 2025, only one community-based case could be included. A key reason for this is the lack of reporting on environmental grievances caused by textile production or textile waste. There is no transparent, systematic database that documents and presents environmental pollution in the vicinity of specific textile factories. Through community-based monitoring, the project partners in Germany and Bangladesh are working to close this gap.