

**Country (Insert country of origin of your company / organization or its headquarters' location)**

Egypt

**Submitting Organization/Company**

EGYPTIAN CLOTHING BANK

**If Organization or Company, please indicate the approximate number of employees**

&lt; 250

**Please indicate the number of employees**

230

**Title of the action**

Unharmful Solid Waste Recycling and Repurposing for Social Development and Humanitarian Relief

**Upload your logo or an image**



**EGYPTIAN  
Clothing Bank**  
**بنك الكساء  
الأمري**

**Relevant Website**

[www.egyptianclothingbank.org](http://www.egyptianclothingbank.org)

**Main Partners**

EGYPTIAN MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SOLIDARITY, EGYPTIAN

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, COMMERCIAL  
INTERNATIONAL BANK, AL FUTTAIM, CARREFOUR

## Other Partners

EGYPTIAN MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS, NATIONAL  
BANK OF EGYPT, IKEA, INDITEX, H&M, DECATHLON,  
MCDONALDS, DEJAVU SHOES, VERYNILE, UPFUSE, BANQUE  
MISR, B TECH, MINLO, ARAFA GROUP, MINTRA, CARINA

## Type of initiative

Civil Society

## Description of action

The Egyptian Clothing Bank is an Egyptian NGO specialized in the specific targeted collection of clothes and fabric excess and waste from manufacturers, producers, retailers, traders, importers and exporters of garments and home textiles in addition to home owners, for the purpose of reutilizing this excess and waste for the need and wellness of those underprivileged. The Egyptian Clothing Bank has the collection arm of a car fleet as well as permanent and mobile collection boxes, in addition to logistical partnerships with courier companies for pick up and drop off at its huge warehouses. The Egyptian Clothing Bank is specialized in the categorized sorting of all receivables into 108 categories of clothes, fabrics, shoes, bags, accessories and home textiles, in addition to tens of sub categories for other unarmful waste such as glass, wood, rubber, paper and metal. The Egyptian Clothing Bank hosts a processing operation of repairs, cleaning, dyeing, transformation and alterations plus recycling and up cycling, to ultimately transform all donated excess and waste into distributable items. The Egyptian Clothing Bank manages 45 small workshops where deadstock, precuts, incompletes and all pre production waste is transformed into usable clothing items from newborn underwear to whole clothing pieces. The Egyptian Clothing Bank has databases of deserving beneficiaries divided into seven groups; Graduating Underprivileged University Students, Underprivileged Children, Orphans, Underprivileged Elders and Challenged, Marginalized Communities and Underprivileged Young Athletes. All provision is given as giveaways for free and all according to each individual's size, culture, environmental needs, preference and function. The Egyptian Clothing Bank has 5 main sectors, the Operational, the Financial, the Business Development, the Administrative and the Fundraising. These sectors manage 12 departments of them departments of Zero Waste Management and Innovation. The Egyptian Clothing Bank also has a Design department for creative design and repurposing solutions of the waste. The processes and procedures are constantly developed and upgraded with a vision of activating the full potential of humans through repurposing discarded resources for the welfare of the planet and its people.

ECB manages the complete process

tracing the waste dump donation from its source through its collection arms, also manages all warehouses and sorting facilities as well as all processing, transforming, shredding facilities till the design, production and packing to dispatch of the final recycled product, thus controlling every phase of the process.

## Type of action

Traceability & Transparency

## Please select the specific area/s of the action

Research and Development of Innovative Solutions

Awareness and Education

## Scope of the action, including a description of the value chain processes that are covered

Objective (max 200 words): The main objective of the Egyptian Clothing Bank is providing the basic needs of clothes and cover to those deserving, through the repurposing solutions of discarded waste and excess of unarmful solid waste. This objective set the base of the Egyptian Clothing bank's five main functions which are; Waste Collection, Waste Sorting, Waste Recycling, Design and Manufacturing and Distribution.

Commitments (max 200 words): The Egyptian Clothing Bank is committed to its Zero Waste policy where every donated material and waste is channeled for purposeful reutilization. The commitment to creative and design solutions are developing into a cohesive team of creative designers and project managers.

Value Chain Scope: The Egyptian Clothing Bank is a zero waste organization and has had its carbon footprint assessed. The Egyptian Clothing Bank is working on attaining recycling certifications and offering offsetting services to garment producers.

## Timeframe and/or milestones for the action

The Egyptian Clothing Bank has been operational since 2012 and has started its zero waste policy in 2020. The Egyptian Clothing Bank started applying its repurposing techniques in 2017 and have to date repurposed over 10 million pieces of clothing and cover to the most deserving. The operations of the Egyptian Clothing Bank are continuous with an annual growth rate in collection and distribution surpassing 20%.

## Reference instruments and sources used

The Egyptian Clothing Bank was established in 2012 with no reference to a similar model that is missioned to repurpose excess and waste clothes for the provision for the poor. Models of commercial clothing recycling plants in Europe (such as Texaid) were visited to take reference, but the repurposing model of the Egyptian Clothing Bank seemed to be innovative since it is a charity and social enterprise and not a commercial entity. The path taken until reaching the 108 clothing items categories took several years with much trial and error and streamlining. The other unarmful waste material categorization started in 2022 and this too is now going through phases of streamlining, experimentation and prototype testing. The Egyptian Clothing Bank is currently applying for the GRS certification and Gold Standard, its products also aiming B Corp Certification.

## Expected benefits and impact for the stakeholders involved

Enhanced traceability of the social/environmental/ethical attributes of product(s)/materials along the value chain; for example, for origin, quality, sustainability performance, and compliance with health and safety requirements for consumers and workers

A measurable impact on sustainability in value chains over time, eventually verified through life-cycle assessments and/or sustainability certifications

Enhanced environmental and socially responsible consumption and production, and circularity of the value chain, that may be relevant to and inspire other countries

and industry actors/partners

Improved working conditions for workers along the value chain and, particularly, those who work for “suppliers to suppliers” in parts of the value chain that today are often “hidden”

## Stakeholders involved

Business and industry associations

Consumers and consumer associations

Intergovernmental organizations

Local authorities

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

Workers and trade unions

## Key performance indicators for the action

The KPIs of the provisional activity of the Egyptian Clothing Bank is the percentage of targeted group needs covered every year. Inclusivity and specific needs offerance is also a KPI. Zero waste efficiency is a KPI as well as maximum optimization of the resource repurposing. Governance and traceability of the waste donations, its streamlined categorization, sorting, prepping, processing and recycling is monitored and evaluated constantly. Being an Egyptian NGO we are under controlled documentation obligations for the inventory trails and operational phases.

## Good practices

<https://www.egyptianclothingbank.org/>

## How has this UNECE-UN/CEFACT Call to Action contributed to strategic engagement and/or public awareness in support of your commitment?

The Egyptian Clothing Bank was invited to display its model at the Green Zone Innovation Hub in COP 27. This was the time that we at the Egyptian Clothing Bank became aware of our positioning at the publics perception.

## Link to relevant goal(s) and specific target(s) of the United Nations

