

# YESS: Yarn Ethically & Sustainably Sourced

Q2 Update Webinar

30 June 2022

<http://www.sourcingnetwork.org/yess>

# Today's YESS Agenda

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1. Initiative Activities and Updates
2. Pilot Follow-ups and Standard Public Consultation
3. Sponsorship and Steering Committee
4. 2022 Next Steps and Beyond
5. Q & A

# YESS Activities and Updates



Yarn  
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Sourced



Patricia Jurewicz  
Founder & CEO  
Responsible Sourcing Network

# YESS Activities and Updates

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- ❑ The YESS Pilot has concluded, findings have been published ([link](#)), an annex will be added.
- ❑ Implementation Working Group (IWG) Status
  - ❑ Recommendations and Action Plan are being finalized, and then they will be distributed
- ❑ Status of YESS Standard for Textile Mills (Knitting & Weaving)
  - ❑ Public consultation has closed, feedback is being integrated as appropriate, and the final version is scheduled to be released in Q3
  - ❑ YESS Standard for Spinning Mills is also being updated and released
- ❑ STREAMS Pilot in India is being formalized (Verité, BCI, traceability)

# YESS Pilot Follow-ups and Standard Public Consultation



Liz Muller  
Principal  
liz muller & partners  
Due Diligence Consultant

# YESS Pilot Overview

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2 Standards

3 Countries

6 Enterprises

7 Auditors

75+ Facility Leaders

100+ Resources or Trainings



# YESS Pilot Improvement Action Plans and Follow-ups

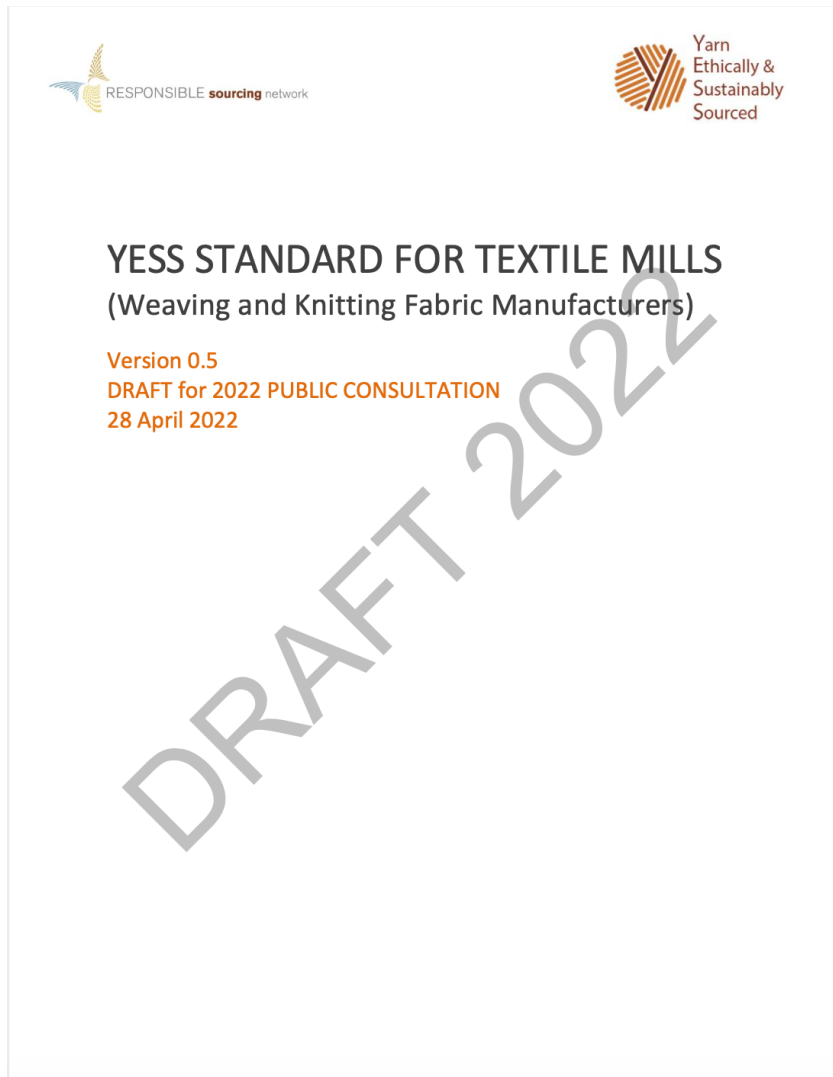
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- ❑ Facilities' efforts to address assessment findings and improvement opportunities vary
- ❑ Facilities took advantage of technical advice and resources
- ❑ Clarity on forced labor risk level is needed for facilities to prioritize actions
- ❑ Launching YESS will allow us to learn how we can further support facilities



# YESS Standard for Textile Mills Public Consultation

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- ❑ Launched on May 1, 2022 and closed on June 15, 2022
- ❑ 19 stakeholders provided comments
- ❑ A public response to feedback will be issued along with the release of the YESS Standards in Q3



# Comments of Note from Public Consultation

## **The importance of robust IT systems**

As with all elements of a due diligence management system, IT systems must be appropriately robust and effective. While IT systems are critical for material management and tracking, **strong processes, trainings and executive support are critical for the proper functioning the entire due diligence management system.**

## **Less detail is provided in high-risk supply chain requirements**

It is important to recognize that high-risk mitigation plans must be informed by stakeholders. Instruments or approaches, including timelines, will vary depending on the conditions and type of forced labor risk. **YESS will incorporate any learnings - and adding more specific expectations, if warranted – as participating enterprises and the wider YESS community address forced labor in high-risk origins.**

## **Requests for more prescriptive details**

A key concept of due diligence is that the enterprise understands the risks and conditions and engages with stakeholders to develop effective measures. **YESS will bolster the effectiveness of the standards by providing examples and more in trainings as well as develop resources over time.**

## **The challenge for mills to source YESS conformant (low-risk) spinners until YESS grows**

Sourcing from non-YESS conformant spinners will require mills to conduct additional due diligence. However, they are allowed to start with prioritized higher risk suppliers. **Industry support for YESS will help cascade due diligence in this key tier of the supply chain.**

# YESS 2022 Sponsorship and Steering Committee



Jamie Fortin  
Senior Program Associate  
Responsible Sourcing Network

# YESS 2022 Sponsorship Options

[YESS Overview](#)

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## Ambassador – \$10,000

- YESS Portal access for sourcing staff (trainings and quizzes)
- YESS Textile Mill Standard public consultation & finalization
- Wrap up of the YESS Implementation Working Group (IWG)
- Creation and implementation of YESS Action Plan

## Champion - \$25,000

- Ambassador benefits plus:
- Sourcing staff + 10 facilities receive access to trainings and resources
- Access to quarterly Q&A sessions with YESS's due diligence expert
- Nomination of 2 facilities to be independently assessed (second cohort)

## Pioneer - \$50,000

- Champion & Ambassador benefits plus:
- Limited technical advice for two nominated facilities
- Nomination of 2 facilities to be independently assessed (first cohort)
- 20% discount for Year 1 of YESS membership

# YESS Steering Committee

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- ❑ Multi-stakeholder:
  - ❑ 3 retail/ brands/ associations
  - ❑ 3 civil society
  - ❑ 3 facilities/ traders/ industry
- ❑ Decision-making body
- ❑ Transition SC to elected positions after 18 months

# YESS 2022 Next Steps and Beyond



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# 2022 Next Steps

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- ❑ Publish finalized YESS Standards (Q3)
- ❑ Finalize the YESS Recommendations and Action Plan (Q3)
- ❑ Begin work with Steering Committee (Q3)
- ❑ Finalize forced labor methodology approach (Q3-Q4)
- ❑ Circulate an RFP for auditor and assessment management
- ❑ STREAMS Pilot (2022 – 2023)
- ❑ Raise funds for capacity building and to implement the Action Plan (2022)



# Path Forward 2023

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- ❑ Commence YESS membership with annual dues
- ❑ Conduct training and capacity building
- ❑ Begin conducting third-party assessments
- ❑ Formalize partnerships with leading initiatives
- ❑ Support risk-mitigation capacity building and collaboration

# Questions?

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**Patricia Jurewicz**

Patricia@sourcingnetwork.org  
[sourcingnetwork.org](http://sourcingnetwork.org)

**Jamie Fortin**

Jamie@sourcingnetwork.org  
[sourcingnetwork.org](http://sourcingnetwork.org)

**Liz Muller**

Liz@lizmuller.com  
[lizmuller.com](http://lizmuller.com)

