

# YESS MEMBERSHIP

BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR  
INTERNATIONAL DUE DILIGENCE COMMUNITY



Yarn  
Ethically &  
Sustainably  
Sourced

# WHAT IS YESS?

**YESS: Yarn Ethically & Sustainably Sourced is an initiative of Responsible Sourcing Network (RSN) which aims to eliminate forced labor in cotton production through a due diligence approach.**

YESS uses the OECD risk-based due diligence framework and aligns with the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA) to enable yarn and fabric manufacturers in the middle of the supply chain. By joining as a YESS member, companies, suppliers, and stakeholders can take action on their commitments to responsible sourcing and ethical supply chains. YESS membership offers capacity building to meet the requirements of the YESS Standards, engagement opportunities to prevent and mitigate the risk of forced labor, and implementation of remediation as needed. YESS supports spinning and fabric mills with three main activities:

**1**

Establish robust management systems and a strong due diligence approach to identify and address cotton produced with forced labor

**2**

Develop a risk mitigation plan and build capacity with suppliers that have a higher risk of sourcing cotton that causes potential or actual harm

**3**

Collaborate with local stakeholders to prevent and mitigate risks, and remediate harm when it occurs

# YESS MISSION

To create an industry-wide due diligence program for spinning mills and fabric mills to identify and address cotton produced with forced labor in their supply chains.

# YESS VISION

Yarn spinning and fabric mills are empowered and supported in the development and implementation of due diligence systems.

Industry actors, diverse stakeholders, and local communities are collaborating to determine root causes, assess risk, eliminate forced labor, and remediate harm in the cotton industry globally.

The YESS due diligence approach is expanded to address other labor and human rights, and environmental risks in the production of cotton and other raw materials.



(Quang Nguyen Vinh, 2020)

# BENEFITS OF BECOMING A MEMBER

Train and enable spinning & fabric mills to implement effective due diligence systems



Maintain an industry-wide due diligence approach and a global list of verified spinners and mills



Contribute to eradicating forced labor (achieving SDG 8.7)



Increase marketability for spinners, mills, and brands sourcing ethical cotton



Collaborate to minimize verification costs, improve efficiencies, and remediate harm



Give consumers assurance the industry is working together to eliminate forced labor from cotton production



# MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Membership Category and Company Size	Annual Dues
NGOs, Academics, and Associations	\$250
Manufacturers, Individual Consultants, and Micro Companies (<USD \$2m in annual revenue)	\$1,000
Small Companies / Service Providers (USD \$2-20m in annual revenue)	\$5,000
Medium Companies (USD \$20-100m in annual revenue)	\$10,000
Large Companies (USD \$100+m in annual revenue)	\$20,000

## PLEASE NOTE

The cost of YESS assessments are covered separately

Dues and benefits may change as RSN establishes YESS, increases its member base, and builds out its programs and offerings

To support special initiatives or to expand program services, please contact RSN/YESS

# MEMBER ACTIVITIES

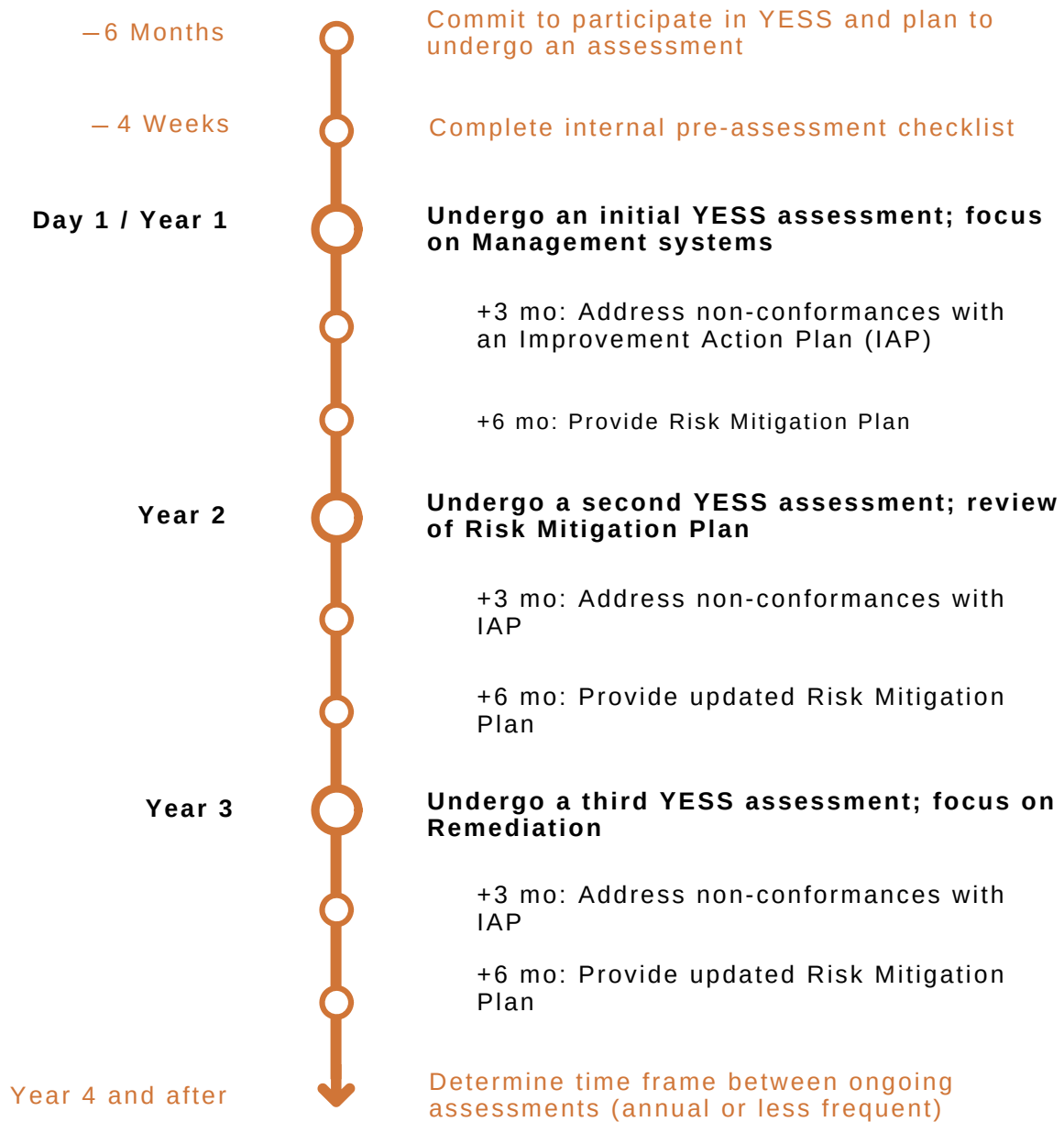
- Join as a YESS Member: Fill out the application, sign the agreement, and pay annual dues
- Sign up internal team for the YESS Portal to access resources and mills' high-level assessment info
- Review foundational training webinars, take quizzes, and become familiar with YESS Standards and resources
- Brands and retailers engage at least two spinning and fabric mills in supply chain annually, help prepare to undergo, and follow up with YESS assessments
- Attend quarterly YESS updates and engagement opportunities
- Collaborate to address or remediate forced labor as needed, and contribute to working groups

## ANNUAL REQUIREMENTS FOR RETAILERS AND BRANDS

Refer a minimum of two spinning or fabric mills annually and support their preparation and participation with YESS assessments.

Collaborate with mills, farm-level initiatives, governments, and local communities to identify, assess, address, and remediate forced labor in cotton production.

# TIMELINE FOR MILLS



Conformance will be recognized annually

# WHO IS BEHIND YESS?

**YESS is an initiative of Responsible Sourcing Network (RSN), a global civil society organization working to eliminate forced labor in raw material supply chains.**

RSN builds responsible supply chain coalitions of diverse stakeholders including investors, companies, and human rights advocates to address human rights abuses in sectors such as cotton harvesting and mineral mining. Currently RSN works with network participants to leverage their influence and drive solutions with forced labor in cotton production, and minerals from conflict-affected and high-risk regions to create positive change for brands, consumers, and affected communities.

## OUR COMMITMENT

Our team at RSN is passionately dedicated to implementing and scaling a due diligence approach that reduces harm and creates positive impact. RSN is comprised of experts who are deeply committed to combating forced labor in cotton production, addressing conflict minerals, and advocating for responsible sourcing practices. With a profound understanding of the apparel and electronics industries, and having played instrumental roles in advisory committees and initiatives focused on due diligence, human rights, and supply chains, our team brings invaluable expertise to our mission and initiatives.

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