C&A Foundation

Greater than the sum of its parts

C&A Foundation publishes its 2016 Annual Report charting successes and challenges on the journey towards making fashion a force for good.

Zug, June 20 – Today, C&A Foundation launches its 2016 Annual Report. This is the fourth annual report since the global C&A Foundation announced its bold and ambitious goal to transform the fashion industry into a force for good. The report shows not only how much the organisation has achieved in a short time, but also how much there is still to do. More importantly, the report illustrates the power of a collaborative approach.

"Our vision is a global apparel industry based on dignity, fairness and the preservation and enhancement of natural capital," says Leslie Johnston, C&A Foundation Executive Director. "But it's not something we can do on our own. That's why we support and strengthen partners and platforms to be better able to inspire all of us to play our part."

From Brazil to Bangladesh, C&A Foundation sparks change in areas that remain a challenge for the industry. This includes accelerating sustainable cotton, eradicating forced and child labour, improving working conditions, fostering a transition to a circular economy, and building resilience in vulnerable communities.

Working with its partners, C&A Foundation is working to create change well beyond its direct influence. For example, in 2016 the foundation:

- Funded 26 new initiatives across all its programmes;
- Benefitted 75,000 cotton farmers, workers, and community members through its cotton, working conditions and forced labour programmes; and over one million people through its humanitarian and disaster risk reduction programme;
- Strengthened 11 multi-stakeholder initiatives bringing actors together to address common issues;
- Supported the transition of over 25,000 farmers from conventional to organic cotton, while engaging the Indian government and universities - as well as brands and retailers - to work together to accelerate the organic cotton market;
- Helped 10,379 survivors of forced and child labour build their vocational skills and secure dignified jobs, while supporting new models of engagement that try to shift deeply rooted cultural norms;
- Supported 5,315 garment workers to benefit from improved working conditions and wages through programmes that change ingrained behaviours of the apparel industry; and
- Co-created the new initiative 'Fashion for Good', that unites innovators, brands, producers, retailers, suppliers, non-profit organisations and funders to enable daring innovation and widespread adoption of good fashion practice.

Today also marks the launch of C&A's 2016 Global Sustainability Report.   The two reports show how C&A Foundation and the global fashion retailer C&A, work shoulder to shoulder to make fashion sustainable and responsible. Anchored to a common sustainability framework, C&A focuses on transforming its supply chain to create fashion with a positive impact, while C&A Foundation brings key actors together to drive the system change that will transform the entire industry.

"While we have achieved a lot, we still need to do much more to transform our industry," says Johnston. "We need common standards, coherence throughout the value chain and measurable progress toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Individual approaches and solutions only diminish our collective influence."

"The challenges we all face are so vast that we simply can't work in isolation. But together, we are greater than the sum of our parts."

About C&A Foundation
We're a corporate foundation here to transform the fashion industry. We give our partners financial support, expertise and networks so they can make the fashion industry work better for every person it touches. We do this because we believe that despite the vast and complex challenges we face, we can work together to make fashion a force for good. www.candafoundation.org

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