

Impact Assessment Report UNITED ARROWS – 2019 Collections

Key statistics	Fabric produced	Women artisans	5 artisan's groups in Burkina Faso	Total artisans
	661 meters	89,65%		29



Artisans involved

- 29 artisans were involved in production:
- 19 artisans from the Association of Women Weavers of Ponsomtenga (AFEPO)
 - 2 artisans from the Association Zoodo for the Promotion of Women (AZPF)
 - 2 artisan from INOVATEX
 - 4 artisans from Cooperative Faso Textile (COFATEX)
 - 2 artisans from the dyeing factory MADIRO

Skills used

- Winding
- Warping
- Weaving on large width looms
- Dyeing

Who made your clothes?



Zongo Brigitte, AFEPO, Ponsomtenga

"My name is Zongo Brigitte, I am 28 years old. I am mother of 4 and I weave since 7 years ago. I like this job because it provides me with the necessary money to take care of my children and to cover my own needs. The skills I am developing through the orders are will contribute to increase my income in the future. I am really happy to work among other women and I am grateful to United Arrows for the orders".



Tuina Hortence, COFATEX, Bobo Dioulasso

"My name is Hortence Tuina, I am over 40 years old. I weaved 50 meters from this order. I met challenges because it was my first time to weave this kind of fabric. I learnt a lot from the experience. This order has mainly contributed to the payment of the rent of my house and my transport expenses".



Konanga Monique, AFEPO, Ponsomtenga

"My name is Konanga Monique, I am 33 years old and I am mother of 3. This order has helped me developed new skills. Thanks to the work provided, I have been able to pay for my children school fees and support my husband. Working on orders on a regular basis allows us to have a regular income which helps us improve our living conditions".



Habou Elie, INOVATEX, Bobo Dioulasso

"My name is Habou Elie, I am 30 years old. I am happy about the collaboration with Ethical Fashion Initiative and its partner United Arrows. This order helped me cover my usual expenses. I have worked on this kind of fabrics before but this one was particular. I learned and we got paid enough to invest in our enterprise and support our families. I want to thank United Arrows for the confidence towards us".

Join the
Conversation...

#WhoMadeMyClothes
#NotCharityJustWork
#TradeNotAid



For the **Ethical Fashion Initiative**, lifestyle choices impact livelihoods. EFI creates and strengthens social enterprises in emerging economies to connect discerning international brands in fashion, interiors and fine foods with talented local designers, artisans and micro-producers. Savvy investors, pro-poor champions and mindful consumers find value in a virtuous circle that creates not just premium products, but also stable, dignified work, and creative and resilient women, men and communities.

EFI is a flagship programme of the International Trade Centre, a joint agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization.

EFI Compliance

This order was monitored using EFI's Compliance scheme: an innovative system to ensure compliance with labour and environmental regulations, traceability for all processes, and a clear measurement of the impact of work on those involved in the value chain.

To discover the artisan groups working with EFI around the world, follow this [link](#).

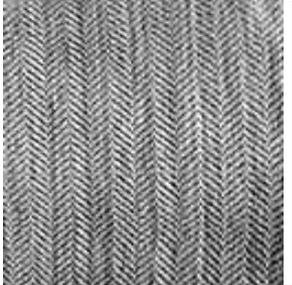


CABES GIE consists of individual and collective enterprises of artisans in the textile sector in Burkina Faso. It aims to promote artisanal and traditional textiles and create a reliable supply chain that meets international standards of quality and creativity as well as production deadlines.

CABES offers employment to artisans in marginalized communities, especially women, to lift them out of poverty. The collaboration with EFI helps CABES to build on its expertise and consolidate its resources. EFI provides technical assistance and training as well as facilitating long-term business opportunities with fashion buyers.



Fig 1: Order Summary, Artisans/Community Groups and Skills

Style	Photo	Groups/artisans involved in production	# of artisans involved	% of women	Main skills used
CHCR 356BF		AFEPO: JULIENNE; AGATHE; JOSEPHINE; MADELAINE; KOROTINE; ALBERTINE; KOUDOUGOU; VERONIQUE; ROSALIE; CATHERINE; AUGUSTINE; CECILE; BEATRICE. AZPF : EVELYNE; SARATA;	15	100%	Winding, warping, weaving
AFPO UATH CAPC 375BF		AFEPO: MONIQUE; MARCELINE1; FLORENCE; ELIANE; BRIGITTE; MARCELINE2; KOUDOUGOU; VERONIQUE; ROSALIE; CATHERINE; AUGUSTINE; CECILE; BEATRICE.	6	100%	Winding, warping, weaving
CO S1 U A		COFATEX : TUINA HORTENSE ; OUATTARA BARKISSA ; YAMEOGO SANATA ; DAO ALIMA ;	4	100%	Winding, warping, weaving
IN SC 3 UA		INOVATEX : ELIE ; AMINATA	2	50%	Winding, warping, weaving
N/A		MADIRO : MADI ; KARIM	2	0%	Dyeing

GIE CABES - Ouagadougou



EFI COMPLIANCE*

CABES Social Enterprise
Ouagadougou

EFI Code of Conduct principles	Compliance in 2018
1 No forced labour	87%
2 Right to freedom of association and collective bargaining	81%
3 No harassment, abuse or discrimination	78%
4 No underage labour	100%
5 Reasonable hours of work	86%
6 Payment of a living wage	100%
7 Safe and healthy working conditions	89%
8 Women's rights guaranteed	96%
9 Minimized impact on the environment	76%
10 Respect for community values	100%

Key facts

- **Year of creation:** 2016
- **Number of members:** 475 artisans
- **9 founding ateliers and cooperatives**
- **Location:** HQ in Ouagadougou. Hubs in Bobo-Dioulasso, Pissy,
- **Activities:** Production and promotion of traditional handwoven and decorated cotton textiles from Burkina Faso produced by disadvantaged artisans.

CABES is a social enterprise, which was created with the support of the Ethical Fashion Initiative (EFI) to promote the work of marginalized artisans of Burkina Faso producing handwoven and decorated cotton textiles on international markets. CABES stands for “Commerce et Artisanat pour le Bien Etre Social”, which means “Trade and crafts for social well-being”.

CABES is composed of artisan groups (“ateliers”, cooperatives, associations) working along the whole handwoven textile value chain, from cotton ginning to finished fabrics. Through CABES, these artisans become suppliers of international fashion and lifestyle brands and this contributes to poverty reduction and to the empowerment of artisan communities.

EFI Compliance scores are calculated using EFI’s monitoring tool to assess partners’ compliance with the EFI code of conduct. For scores below 100% in one or more areas, a corrective action plan is defined with relevant managers to help them reach full compliance. Implementation of the corrective actions plan is monitored and evaluated regularly. The aim is to motivate partners to comply with the code of conduct fully but progressively, helping them understand the benefits associated with compliance, rather than punish them for non-compliance on day one. EFI works hand in hand with its partners to improve working conditions and raise workers’ living standards in the long term.



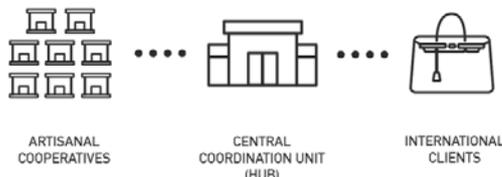
“Pissy II centre is equipped with small industrial machinery for loom preparation for weaving”.



Fabric development for EDUN – the technical team trains artisans on understanding and using technical sheets.

CABES acts as a central coordination unit (“hub”) and manages relations with the market and international clients as well as all aspects of production, such as product development, sourcing materials, training, organising production, quality control, packaging, administrative procedures, shipping and payments.

As well as production coordination, quality control and product development, CABES is involved in delivering management and technical training to ateliers, as part of EFI’s core project activities. Training improves quality and productivity, and most importantly enables more and more artisans to be included in the production chain.



In this way, CABES is helping create a reliable supply chain that is aligned with international standards and serves the longterm interests of artisans in Burkina Faso. Ateliers will have a reliable commercial entity to carry on commercial activities long after the end of the EFI project.

CABES has three production hubs – in Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso - to ensure good geographical coverage and reliable, high quality support to the ateliers. CABES also manages a yarn preparation centre in Ouagadougou with the Pissy II centre and in Bobo Dioulasso with the Bobo Hub. The centre benefits all ateliers in its network, by partially automating two preparation steps that are physically demanding and very time consuming: bobbin preparation and positioning the yarn on warping beams.



Faso Danfani, beautiful handwoven patterned textiles

The CABES team is made up of sector professionals. New recruits come from textile and engineering schools of Mali, and go through a specific training programme designed with the help of international experts. This enables them to work hand in hand with ateliers at artisan level while incorporating methodologies and best practices from the industrial sector.

COFATEX – Bobo Dioulasso



Key facts

- Year of creation: 2012
- Number of members: 17 artisans
- Percentage of women: 95 %
- Location: Bobo-Dioulasso
- Activities: Natural dyeing, weaving on small and wide horizontal looms

That is why, when the previous president left the cooperative in 2015, she decided to take over and, with the help of CABES, EFI's social enterprise in Burkina Faso, she was able to bring together dynamic artisans and resume COFATEX's activities. Despite her low income, she remained committed to COFATEX and shared her vision and ambition with the new artisans.

Following its creation, COFATEX lost a large number of its workers. The cooperative was facing difficulties to sell the fabrics it was producing and it was therefore unable to provide better living conditions to their workers. Ms. Sakandé, COFATEX's current president, was one of the artisans working for the cooperative at that time. She earned only 2 USD a month, but she believed in the project.

COFATEX is a cooperative that was created in 2012 by a group of women to promote Burkina Faso's traditional fabrics and provide better living conditions to artisans. They wanted to support women in difficulty and give them a place to share ideas and discuss personal issues. COFATEX stands for "Coopérative Faso Textile".



Artisans winding yarn onto bobbins

They resumed work with a small number of women, and a man joined them later. COFATEX currently employs 16 artisans, who together raised funds to build a new workplace in sector 25 in Bobo Dioulasso. Today, artisans joining COFATEX have access to better living conditions and a regular income that is crucial to the well-being of their family.

In sector 25, where COFATEX has set up its new workshop, people still live as if they were living in a small village. Families are poor and do not have access to education (neighbouring schools are private and more expensive than public schools). The average number of people in a family is five, and they live in small houses. Sector 25 is an “artisanal zone”, which means that mainly artisans live there.



An artisan controlling the quality of a fabric and inspecting it for any defects



The women of COFATEX working in team.



COFATEX is located in the eastern part of Bobo Dioulasso, the economic capital of Burkina Faso and the second largest city in terms of population.

COFATEX benefited from the support of Diakonika, a Swedish development organization, through the “Fond Commun Genre” and received two awards at the “International Handicrafts Fair of Ouagadougou (SIAO)”.

Women do not usually have the opportunity to flourish in sector 25 but their involvement in COFATEX’s work fills them with hope for their social inclusion and social and for their social mobility. Artisans who work for COFATEX can contribute to the well-being of their families, especially their children exposed to malaria and other types of tropical diseases.

AFEPO - Ponsomtenga



Key facts

- Year of creation: 2007
- CABES member: Since 2016
- Number of members: 57
- Percentage of women: 100%
- Location: Ponsomtenga, Burkina Faso
- Activities: Dyeing, Faso Danfani weaving



The Association of Women Weavers of Ponsomtenga, “Association des Femmes Tisseuses de Ponsomtenga – AFEPO” (in French), is an association that aims to contribute to poverty, unemployment and social marginalization reduction by promoting Faso Dan Fani weaving and by contributing to the development of a recognized social status for artisan weavers.

AFEPO currently has 57 members, all of which are women. Many of them already practiced weaving and dyeing before joining AFEPO, but they were doing so in basic and sometimes dangerous conditions. By joining the association, artisans get access to a decent work environment, training possibilities and a space where they can gather and express themselves. They can formalize their activities and stabilize their income; this allows them to have decent living standards and to pay for their children’s education.

AFEPO is located in the village of Ponsomtenga, 25 km south of Ouagadougou. Despite its proximity to the capital, infrastructure in the village is very basic. Most houses have no electricity, no running water and living conditions are precarious. Agriculture is the villagers’ main livelihood and most weavers have to take part in subsistence farming activities. This was the case of the weavers working for AFEPO before they joined the association. Now, thanks to the regular weaving work provided by AFEPO, they have enough income to hire workers to work in their fields in their place. The association therefore also contributes to creating incomes indirectly within the weavers’ communities. Families in the village consist on average of 7 members so the activities of the centre benefit approximately 378 people.

In 2013, when EFI started working with AFEPO, it only had 18 members. With the support of EFI and other development actors, the association developed steadily over the years to reach 54 artisans in 2018. The association will welcome more artisans with the support of EFI's project, which provides training, equipment and most importantly market access support. The involvement of EFI has also enabled AFEPO to attract other actors (NGOs, development agencies) who supported the development of the association in other areas such as literacy. The atelier is very well organised with different areas specifically dedicated to certain activities: one for wide looms, one for small looms, one for trainees, one for yarn preparation, a closed building for stocks and the showroom and a cooking area as well as a well.



EFI's project supported the construction of new work areas

Artisans joining AFEPO usually learn weaving on small looms and then progressively learn how to weave more intricate and wider fabrics on looms with four pedals that can make fabrics 50 m long and 1.5 m wide!



Most artisans did not have the opportunity to complete their primary education but they can weave intricate fabric designs.

Weaving large width fabrics is physically demanding. This is why EFI supported AFEPO in getting high quality looms and organising the weavers to work in teams: when one artisan is weaving, the other is preparing the shuttles. This improves the quality of the final product, increases productivity and reduces the delays in production, especially when social events such as weddings or funerals occupy artisans for weeks!



A team of artisans: one is weaving on a wide loom while the other is putting yarn on bobbins.

Most artisans working for AFEPO on the orders brought by EFI have made very positive changes in their lives through their work. For instance, Joséphine Nikiema was in a precarious situation before joining AFEPO. A widow and mother of three, she was trying hard to provide for her family, collecting wood and pebbles to sell them. Now aged 38, she can finally breathe: "before it was difficult, but now it's really okay. I earn money to send my kids to school, to provide food for them and to take care of their health. I am a widow; I am both the man and the woman of the house. Thanks to the work provided by AFEPO, everything is much better".



Pascaline cutting a beautiful fabric design that she finished weaving

AZPF - Bilinga



Key facts

- **Year of creation:** November 2015
- **Number of members:** 31
- **Percentage of women:** 100%
- **Location:** HQ Bilinga,
- **Hubs:** Baobané, Bagayalgo, Ouagadougou,
- **Activities:** Cotton spinning, natural dyeing, weaving on vertical, small and wide horizontal looms

The Association for Zoodo Women Promotion (AZPF) was set up in 1996 by Mrs. Mariam Maïga to contribute effectively to promote rural communities and women in Burkina Faso.



Artisan working on wide loom.



Bilinga is a small village in the region of Yatenga, northern Burkina Faso, just south of Ouahigouya (see map: red square). It is part of AZPF's network and is located in the countryside, without electricity or running water. Agriculture is the villagers' main source of income: they grow grains (sesame, groundnuts, niébé, mil, rice) and vegetables. The soil is not very fertile in this region and living conditions are precarious.

Villagers welcomed the AZPF centre as hand-weaving provides a reliable alternative source of income. On average families in the village have 7 members so the centre's activities benefit approximately 217 people. An increasing number of women want to join the association and learn new skills.

Before the opening of the weaving centre, AZPF already provided learning support for children, basic literacy lessons for adults (as the school was only opened 20 years ago in the village), contributed to the opening of the secondary school and hired a traveling nurse to go around villages. In 2018, the association managed to raise funds to drill a new well that benefited the whole village!



There are two covered work areas and a small house for storage/lessons in the atelier

AZPF Bilinga is a supplier of CABES GIE, the social enterprise supported by the EFI project. Several of its artisans have received technical training on weaving and natural dyeing. Further training is planned on weaving, dyeing and cotton spinning. Equipment will also be provided to ensure good, safe working conditions.



Cotton is currently spun by hand, using small "quenouilles", little pieces of wood used to spin the yarn. EFI is introducing spinning wheels to make the artisans' work easier.



The women artisans of AZPF Bilinga are specialized in natural dyes



Artisans comb the cotton (initial stage of spinning)

INOVATEX: Bobo Dioulasso



Key facts

- Year of creation: 2015
- Number of members: 5 artisans
- Percentage of women: 40 %
- Location: Bobo-Dioulasso
- Activities: Weaving on wide looms

INOVATEX is a self-help group that was set up in 2015 by young artisans to tackle unemployment in Bobo-Dioulasso and to offer young Burkinabe the prospect of a better future and a viable alternative to emigrating to the Ivory Coast.

It is composed of five very dynamic artisans, two women and three men, from very different places and backgrounds: some from Bobo-Dioulasso, others from Réo or Dédougou, which is 180 km from Bobo.

Together they decided to form a group to discuss their problems and find solutions. Generating income by making beautiful craft fabrics is their solution.



INOVATEX is located in the Lafiabougou district of Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso's economic capital and second largest city in population size. A popular neighbourhood where mostly modest people live, the district is about 15 km from the centre of Bobo-Dioulasso.

Lafiabougou feels like a village. Families are poor and jobs for young are scarce. Many youngsters between 18 and 30 were not able to go to school and some are tempted to emigrate to look for better opportunities elsewhere.

INOVATEX represents for people of this age group a centre in which they can learn a profession and is for them a source of personal development, recognition and well-being.



INOVATEX has been equipped with wide horizontal looms with the support of EFI's project and funding by the European Union.

Young girls who in the past faced practices such as female genital mutilation and early marriage find in INOVATEX a place of comfort, self-expression, a place where they feel valued.



Habou Elie working on quality control.

Artisans who have joined INOVATEX no longer think about emigrating. They have found hope for the future and have great faith in the self-help group project. Fully committed to the craft of weaving fabrics and grateful for all that it has brought into their lives, they encourage other young people in precarious situations to join them.



The artisans of INOVATEX pose for a photo.

INOVATEX is still a small workshop and it is becoming more and more independent thanks to the money gained from regular orders. Office rental costs are shared with CABES, the EFI social enterprise in Burkina Faso. With EFI and CABES support, it aims to grow, reaching more young people in Lafiabougou, and empowering more women.

Next steps: The project will further continue to support INOVATEX through orders, trainings but also by assisting the weavers to set better administrative tools.

15 LIFE ON LAND

What do we do to protect the environment?



Ethical Fashion Initiative has made the environmental protection a very important component of its work. To ensure a positive impact on the environment, it demands to all its partner, the strict respect of EFI Compliance norms. Through compliance, Ethical Fashion Initiative is able to ensure the preservation of the environment and propose appropriate measures to avoid pollution.

Every partners working with EFI signed a convention to engage themselves to protect the environment and promote good practices. All partners involved in dyeing activities are selected based on their ability to protect the soil from pollution. They are all equipped with wastewater treatment device that protect the soil from pollution and isolate it from the underground water.



The dyers using the wastewater treatment device during their work.

Ethical Fashion Initiative takes very seriously the impact of its work. The project has recruited last year a Social Affairs Officer who studied environmental economics to ensure a positive social and environmental impact in the regions where it works.

EFI is currently planning to invest in a dyeing centre in the village of Ponsomtenga. The centre will be equipped with an outstanding wastewater treatment device.



AFEPO's dyeing place equipped with a wastewater treatment device.



The visible part of the wastewater treatment device. First stage.

The device is equipped with several filtering steps that purify water and make it reusable for agriculture and other purposes.

The wastewater enters inside the whole and goes through the other steps. Each step represents a filter that contributes one after another to make the used water usable again.

The dye used for biological dyeing comes from Switzerland where it is certified GOTS-ECOCERT (-08-00011).

Biological Dyeing needs a high degree of heat. EFI uses butane gas to produce the necessary heat. Through this use of butane gas, the project contributes to fight against cutting wood for fire in regions where this practice is common.

In Burkina Faso, the proliferation of plastic bags has become a very worrying [phenomenon](#). In 2014, the country has voted a [law](#) prohibiting the production, importation, marketing and distribution of non-biodegradable packaging and plastic bags. But until then, this law is struggling to be applied.



Plastic bags preventing good photosynthesis of trees.

As a social enterprise, CABES_GIE is engaged on promoting the [15th sustainable development goal](#). Since its creation, CABES-GIE uses craft paper instead of plastic bags and it raises customers' awareness on the importance of using biodegradable packaging.



CABES-GIE's bag made with craft paper.