

THE UNIDO INDUSTRIAL UPGRADING AND MODERNIZATION PROGRAMME (IUMP)

A DRIVER OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

The Industrial Upgrading and Modernization Programme (IUMP) aims to contribute to economic growth and facilitate regional integration of developing countries and economies in transition by increasing the capacities of local industries for value added generation, economic diversification, exports and employment creation. UNIDO advocates that competitiveness and innovation are the key dynamics to take advantage of liberalization and to drive economic development and growth.



Most sectors addressed by the IUMP projects are highly capable of having an impact on the economic integration of women. The programme unlocks that potential for creating jobs mostly via improving competitiveness and market access, **enabling women to contribute to growth and sustainable development**. The IUMP fosters enabling ecosystem for women entrepreneurs, improving their access to technologies, information and business support services. Participating women-led enterprises undergo a thorough diagnosis of their functions and performance, thus identifying bottlenecks and areas of intervention, based on which an upgrading plan with priority actions is developed.

This is complemented by building women's capacities to improve the quality and quantity of their production, allowing them to seize opportunities for domestic, regional and international market integration. As part of the programme, women are provided with strategic skills and tools for enhanced competitiveness, inter alia, industrial design and branding for locally produced goods. Capacity building and technical trainings exert a crucial impact on women as they reduce vulnerability, increase their independence, promote equity, and help them enter the labor market and escape poverty.

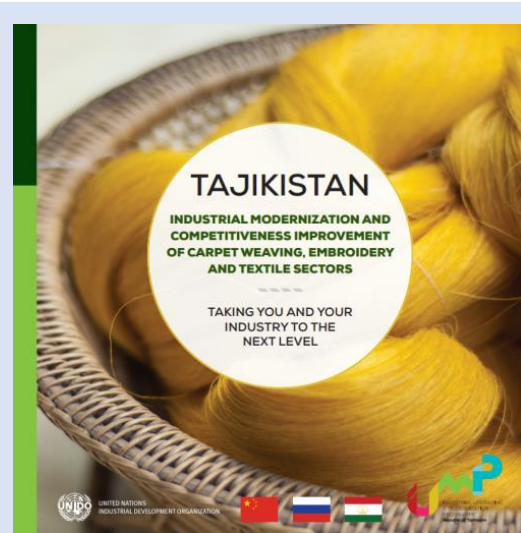
1. "Industrial modernization & competitiveness improvement of carpet-weaving and embroidery and textile sectors in Tajikistan"

As part of this project's **Phase I**, nine carpet weaving and home textile producers went through full enterprise diagnosis studies resulting in the development and joint implementation of industrial modernization plans. **More than 535 experts were trained as part of the 40 trainings. Three training and service centres were strengthened** in the country to serve the carpet and home textile manufacturers.

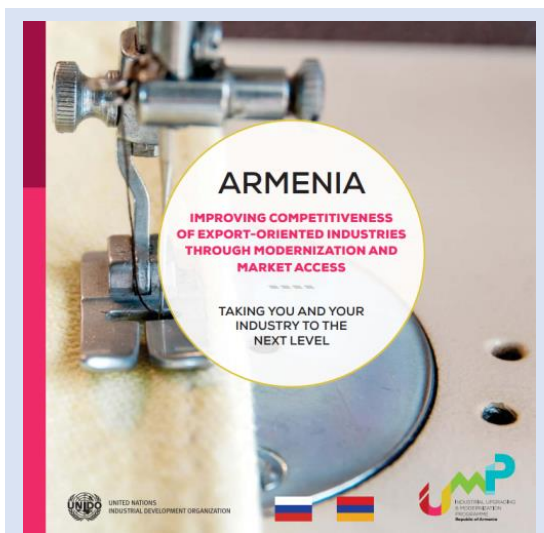
As part of this project, "LA'AL Textiles" brand was formed in 2015 by nine enterprises that produced three carpet and home textile collections presented at more than 16 national and international exhibitions. In less than 2 years, Phase I of this project spurred the textile sector's revitalization by **upgrading the carpet and home textile production, creating more than 100 jobs and increasing expert capacity, especially among women from rural communities and also Afghan refugees**. Numerous contracts with domestic and international partners were signed (such as Serena Dushanbe hotel, Sheraton Dushanbe hotel, Auchan supermarket, interior design shop "Khonai Man" or home textile shop "Yovar"). "LA'AL Textiles" brand received several awards and was selected as the Best National Brand by the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies of Tajikistan in 2018.

Aiming to capitalize on the achievements of Phase I, UNIDO launched **Phase II** of the project, which aims to further enhance the textile industries' performance by engaging a larger number of beneficiary enterprises from different regions, improving product quality and export capacity whilst accelerating Tajikistan's participation in regional integration.

The Phase I (2015-2017) of this project was funded by the **People's Republic of China and Russian Federation**, in equal shares. The Phase II (2019-2022) is funded by the **Russian Federation**.

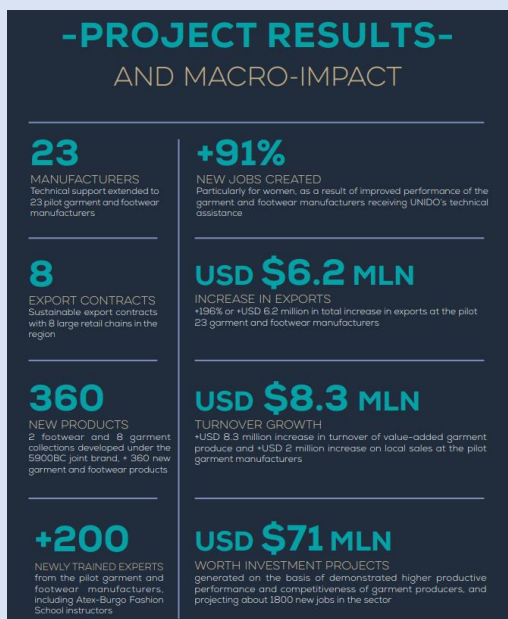


2. “Improving competitiveness of export-oriented industries in Armenia through modernization and market access”



The two-phase project aimed to upgrade and improve market access for Armenian textile, clothing, leather and footwear enterprises, by **improving performance of 23 pilot beneficiary manufacturers** (on a wide range of technical and business issues), **training of more than 440 national experts, creating a new brand “5900BC” that joined those companies together to present 8 high quality unique and innovative garment and 2 footwear collections** at national, regional and international exhibitions and fairs.

A fashion school, “Atex-Burgo Fashion School”, was established in Yerevan in conjunction with a leading fashion school based in Milan. Aiming to ensure sustainability, UNIDO facilitated a public-private partnership model jointly with the Ministry of Economic Development and Investments of Armenia, which resulted in establishment of a Light Industry Support Centre. This public-private partnership model aims to enhance the competitiveness of garment and footwear sectors, allow the local SMEs to find qualified specialists, innovative methodologies and high quality technical services and jointly create products that are competitive at the international market. At the same time, this Centre will serve as a regional hub of technical high quality support services for national and international manufacturers and SMEs, which will enable the sustainability and the improvement of Armenia’s position in the light sector internationally.



Since its launch in 2014, UNIDO undertook a thorough diagnosis of manufacturers’ performance and jointly implemented the tailor made upgrading plans. As result of both project phases, **garment and footwear manufacturing enterprises’ turnover increased by 92 per cent, exports of goods nearly tripled (+196%), whilst employment at the beneficiary SMEs almost doubled (+91%).**

Both Phase I and II of this project are funded by the Russian Federation.