

THE POWER OF CLOTHING

Special Feature
Sustainability:
It's a Journey



I think we can say
goodbye to this
shirt, can't we?

Mom, wait!
Don't throw
out that shirt!

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UNIQLO

LifeWear

“I think we can say goodbye to this shirt, can’t we?”

“Wait! Let me tell you about the journey of this shirt”

Sustainability means meeting current requirements while protecting future needs. We procure natural materials to weave fabric to cut and sew into shirts that we then ship to our stores for sale to our customers. We use natural and human resources throughout this complex process, which can adversely impact our lives and the environment. Sustainability is about minimizing and mitigating these impacts to ensure that the life of a shirt like this doesn’t do harm to the future of our planet.

Our four approaches

Sustainability
A to Z

UNIQLO sustainability initiatives span four areas: 1) supply chain, 2) products, 3) stores and communities, and 4) employees. The first covers energy and water resource usage, waste management and working environments in factories. The second focuses on procuring raw materials from sources that support worker rights, favorable working conditions and the environment as well as product quality, safety and durability. The third considers store energy efficiency and community links. The fourth strives to create working environments that celebrate human diversity and potential while ensuring safety and security. These areas cover everyone involved in the shirt-making process, from raw-cotton cultivators, producers, retailers through to the final owner.

Sustainability = meeting current requirements while protecting future needs

Raw cotton is used in shirts and made with finite resources and energy

Sustainability means minimizing environmental impact. Cotton is the most familiar fabric. It's soft and easy to handle. People everywhere wear cotton in all seasons. There are huge cotton fields all over the world to fulfil this demand. But does the mass production of cotton adversely impact the natural environment and workers' lives in regions that produce it? If so, we have a responsibility to address these issues.



The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) Sustainability A to Z

UNIQLO promotes initiatives to reduce water resources required for cotton cultivation, alleviate the environmental impact of pesticides, fertilizers and other chemical agents, and prevent the use of cotton produced using child or forced labor. In 2018, UNIQLO joined the NGO Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) because it aims to do exactly that. It is a cooperative project that encourages sustainable cotton production with the support of member companies and NGOs such as the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The BCI is supported by 23 countries and 1.6 million cotton growers. To fulfill our responsibility and duty as a global company, UNIQLO seeks to create high-quality, durable shirts that help alleviate environmental impact.



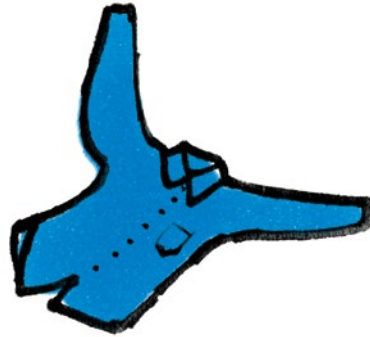
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Sustainability = minimizing environmental impact



Environmental initiatives by factories for healthier living.

Sustainability means creating environments for healthier living. We must minimize CO₂ emissions, chemical waste and the overall environmental impact of partner factories that use electricity and water to produce fabric for making shirts. For example, state-of-the-art Chinese textile manufacturing partner, Lu Thai, has constructed new thermal power stations that help reduce CO₂ emissions, and treat domestic sewage along with factory effluents at its water purification plants.



Factories as part of the community

Sustainability
A to Z

How should we address environmental or social impacts related to water, energy, waste, or working conditions? The Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC) is a global organization that tackles this very issue. As a member, UNIQLO applies SAC environmental standards to its environmental assessments and initiatives at fabric manufacturers, which make up 70% of UNIQLO production volume. UNIQLO is working towards concrete targets to consistently reduce water and energy usage by 2020. We also work with partner factories to create healthier working environments, attentively checking and adjusting orders or production deadlines to suit production capacity so that work can be completed within permitted working hours.

Sustainability = supporting local communities

China's Lu Thai Textiles hires 80% of employees locally and strives to create the safest, most hygienic working environment possible.



Sustainability = creating better workplaces



Taking care of people who produce and sell our products

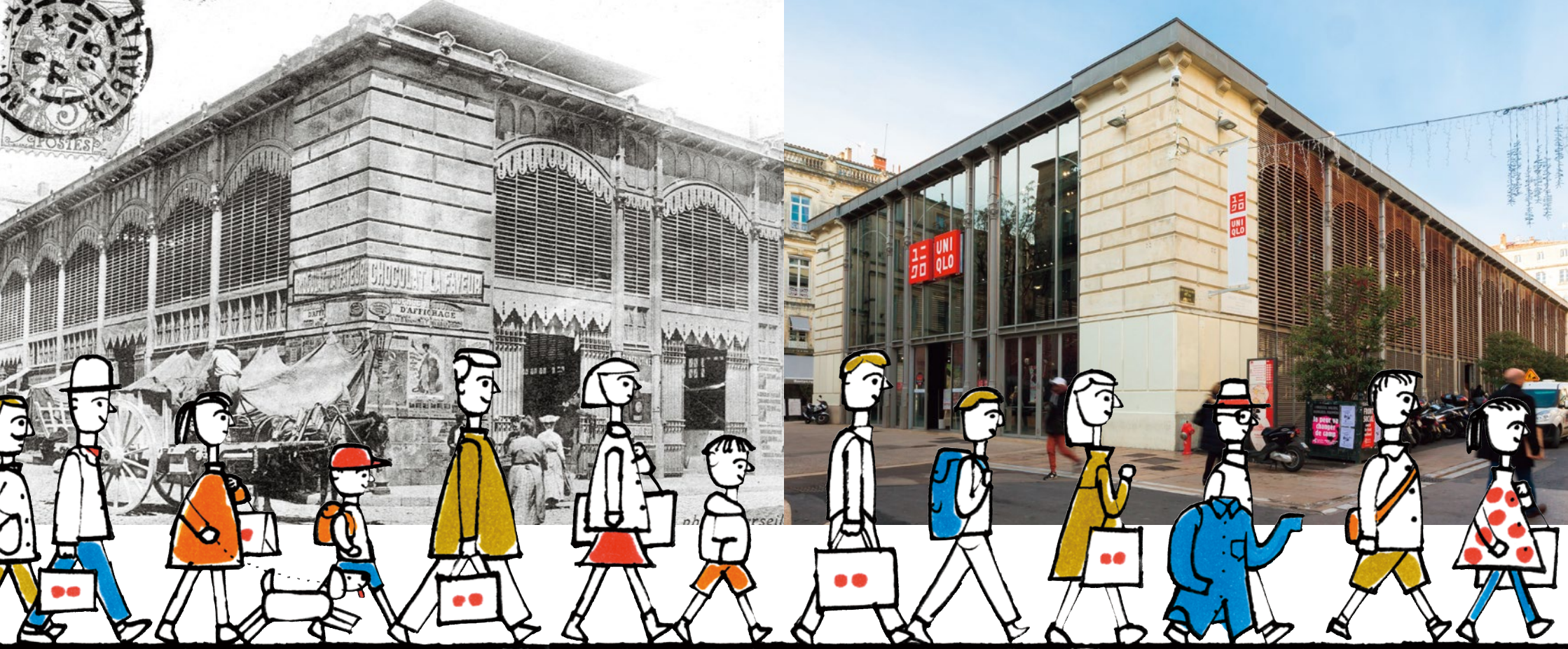
Sustainability means creating better working conditions. At UNIQLO, that involves working with partner factories to foster environments that protect the human rights, safety and health of those who make our shirts, and fostering a diverse and inclusive workforce in the stores that sell them.

Safe, secure, diverse workplaces

Sustainability
A to Z

It's vital not only to provide better working environments for UNIQLO employees, but for partner factory employees as well. We monitor working conditions at partner factories, request improvements as needed and offer support if problems

are found. We actively recruit and provide opportunities for disabled employees. Recently, we have started hiring refugees to encourage staff to work and interact with people from different backgrounds and abilities.



Sustainability = protecting future resources

Developing stores with local communities

Sustainability is about passing on precious resources to future generations. Old streets represent a living history. UNIQLO strives not just to build new stores but to create stores with deep community links that everyone can love.

The UNIQLO Montpellier Store

Sustainability
A to Z

Montpellier is one of France's great cities, founded in the middle ages. Residents love Les Halles Castellanes, the city's first steel structure, which was built in the 19th century as the city's central marketplace and registered as a historical monument in 1999. The extensively refurbished building now bustles with residents

visiting the food hall on the lower floor and commercial outlets on the upper floor. When designing the UNIQLO Montpellier store, we had many in-depth discussions with the city authorities and owners about maintaining as much original flooring, ceiling and lighting as possible to maximize the historic appeal.

There's more to the value of clothing.



Sustainability represents continuation – from one life to the next. UNIQLO clothes can be reused or recycled. Quality secondhand clothes collected instore are delivered worldwide, mainly to refugee camps. Clothes not only protect us from the elements, they also protect people's dignity and encourage social participation. Have you any spare clothes sleeping in your closet waiting for a new chance at life?



Sustainability = from one life to another



Share clothing with the world

Sustainability
A to Z

In 2006, UNIQLO formed a global partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Since then, we have delivered over 25 million items of clothing to refugees and displaced persons worldwide. UNIQLO's All-Product Recycling Initiative accepts quality secondhand clothing from

customers year round via in-store collection boxes. We believe the value of clothing lies not just in producing and selling high quality clothing at reasonable prices, but in contributing to a more sustainable world. We ask customers to continue supporting our recycling program.

Unlocking the Power of Clothing

We believe we can turn the power of clothing into a force for good. By designing, making and selling good clothing, we can make the world a better place.

Good clothing means simple clothing, high in quality, and built to last. It's clothing that enriches the lives of people who wear it by giving them comfort, protection and pleasure. It is produced in a way that is harmonious with nature, without excessive burden on the environment.

Good clothing is made by people of diverse backgrounds working with energy and enthusiasm, under conditions where their health, safety and human rights are respected and upheld.

And we will extend this same spirit to our customers and all our stakeholders, to a better society where we all thrive.

This is our promise: to always work toward a better, more sustainable society.

<http://www.uniqlo.com/en/sustainability/>

Read more about UNIQLO sustainability initiatives



Kids are in need of clothing

How do clothes make a difference to child refugees? Some can't go to school because they don't have a suitable shirt to wear. Clothes can help protect a child's dignity, inspire positive feelings, and open a whole new future. We send your donated clothing items to children around the world. Why? Because, ultimately, sustainability is about creating a lasting future for today's children.



Clothes for kids

Approximately 50% of the global refugee population is under 18*. Children need more clothes because they grow quickly. In 2016, UNIQLO received a request from UNHCR to provide approximately 2 million clothing items for kids. While we collect large volumes of kids clothing, it is still short of the target. Please drop any UNIQLO kids clothes that you no longer need into our in-store collection boxes. We promise to deliver them to children that need them most.



LifeWear

*UNHCR: <http://www.unhcr.org/global-trends-2016-media/>

This shirt's
journey
continues.

A shirt's life
can be a
long one.

