

“ALDI SOUTH’s response”, 4 July 2022

The ALDI SOUTH Group is committed to respecting human rights while improving living and working conditions throughout its supply chains. We also expect our business partners and their suppliers to safeguard individuals’ rights and to ensure that all business activities comply with our human rights and environmental standards as well as our own policies.

We are deeply concerned about the developments in Myanmar and the safety and well-being of all of Myanmar’s citizens.

Due to the unpredictable nature of carrying out our business activities in the country and the difficulty of fulfilling even the most basic human rights due diligence processes, it was decided in September 2021 to stop sourcing from Myanmar for the foreseeable future.

We were and still are constantly analysing different stakeholders’ perspectives (e.g., IndustriALL, SMART Myanmar and Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business) and remain in communication with them and other organisations on the current political and human rights situation in Myanmar.

Additionally, the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) has commissioned an independent assessment of the human rights impacts in the garment sector in Myanmar, based on the application of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and OECD due diligence guidance. As a member of the ETI, ALDI SOUTH supports this initiative, and the assessment constitutes an integral part of our risk identification and prioritisation process in line with the UN’s Human Rights Due Diligence process.

Both facilities manufactured goods for the ALDI SOUTH Group before we imposed the sourcing ban in 2021. As with all factories used by ALDI in Myanmar, both facilities passed our ALDI Social Assessment and were regularly visited by our direct business partners in Myanmar. No serious labour and human rights abuses as mentioned in your inquiry were identified during these visits and assessments. The last orders from both facilities were completed in 2021 and we no longer have visibility of the factories’ operations.