

THE GLOBAL PRODUCTION NETWORKS OF THE SECOND-HAND CLOTHING INDUSTRY

Impact on Africa

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The purpose of this report is to assess the strategic importance of the global second-hand clothing industry for Africa and to make recommendations for the development of the second-hand clothing sector for the future. At present, there is too much misunderstanding and misinformation regarding the economic impact of second-hand clothing, fuelled by successive attempts to shut down the industry altogether in certain countries. Moreover, it is a myth that the second-hand clothing industry weakens the domestic production of textiles, as shown in the report: the two sectors can work together for mutual benefit. There is no harm in textile producers facing healthy competition, which serves to encourage innovation while raising quality.

This report demonstrates that the second-hand clothing sector makes a fundamentally important economic contribution to Africa and Kenya.

The industry provides jobs and livelihoods to millions, helping to increase consumer purchasing power. It helps to strengthen the demand for clothing in countries such as Kenya by raising fashion awareness. Moreover, the demand for second-hand clothing around the world is growing as there is increased awareness of the environmental cost of textile manufacturing.