(re)Introducing the OAR
Untangling apparel supply chains with open data
We'll Cover...

• What is the OAR?
• Stories of impact
• Live demo
• Q+A
Challenges our industry faces

- Disparate data sets in closed or difficult to access formats
- Variations in name & address data
- Lack of understanding of potential partners or system-wide trends
The Open Apparel Registry (OAR) is an open source tool mapping garment facilities worldwide and assigning a unique ID number to each.
What does the OAR do?

- Creates one common registry of facility names and addresses and an industry standard facility ID.
- Eliminates issues with matching across multiple, inconsistent databases.
- Enables in-facility collaboration between organizations.
A unique ID number

- Each unique facility in the OAR is allocated an ID number.
- The OAR ID does not replace any existing ID schemes.
- It serves as a central source of truth alongside name and address data.

**BD-2019248-2KPBZ-N**

- Country ID
- Origin Date
- Gen. ID
- Check ID
How can better - and OPEN - data help?
What does open data enable?

- Internal Collaboration
- Direct Collaboration
- Ecosystem Collaboration
Internal Collaboration
CLARKS

Founded nearly 200 years ago, Clarks is a global shoe brand with over 1,000 branded stores and franchises around the world.
Due to the set-up of Clarks’ internal systems, obtaining and maintaining visibility of facilities in lower tiers of its supply chain required manual effort across functions and systems.

Using the OAR ID as a common identifier has enabled the brand to overcome this challenge.

As well as this, the OAR helps Clarks identify precisely where its suppliers are, and who they are shared with. It also promotes the important role of transparency within supply chains, as a lever to improving worker conditions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>SUPPLIER GROUP / AGENT</th>
<th>FACTORY NAME &amp; ADDRESS</th>
<th>WORKERS</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
<th>MALE</th>
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<td>&gt;75%</td>
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Hirdaramani is a global apparel manufacturer. They provide integrated apparel design, production and supply chain solutions to premium international brands.
With continued investment in technology and a planned upgrade to a new resource planning system, Hirdaramani has been driving the standardization of data across their organization over the last few years. During that process, they found that they had multiple different naming conventions and categories across all their facilities and raw material supply chain. This created many challenges in migrating data and maintaining consistent records.

The OAR plays a crucial role in standardizing the labeling of all the global facilities across the Hirdaramani group. Submitting and claiming facilities on the OAR forced them to think about the best naming conventions for all their facilities, independent of legal or corporate entity details.
Direct Collaboration
Clean Clothes Campaign is a global alliance dedicated to improving working conditions and empowering workers in the global garment and sportswear industries.
Clean Clothes Campaign (CCC) uses OAR data both in its Urgent Appeal work, in which it responds to concrete violations reported by workers and unions, but also in research initiatives, such as the “Living Wage through Increased Transparency” project.

OAR data enables trade unions to identify which brands are sourcing from which factories.

Following the dismissal of a union leader, this information was used in combination with data from the Transparency Pledge and revealed that a brand sourcing from the factory in question was also a member of four multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSI). In consultation with the CCC, the union picked the MSI known for the fastest response times on grievance mechanisms and was able to swiftly resolve the issue. Within five days, the union leader was reinstated to her full job, including backpay. Case closed, to the satisfaction of all involved.
"We work to help garment workers achieve their rights. Accurate supply chain transparency is vital for that, so we can reach out to the correct brands and other stakeholders to resolve rights violations. Having a clear and unified registry of production facilities makes finding the right information easier and faster, and therefore speeds up the route to remedy."
WWF is the world’s largest conservation NGO whose mission is to stop the degradation of the earth’s natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.
WWF’s water stewardship team often partners with large brands, and works in select areas such as the Mekong Delta, Shanghai, and parts of Pakistan, India and Turkey. In these areas, where there is an aligned interest in biodiversity and apparel processing, it is beneficial for WWF to strategically target companies with a supplier presence in these basins rather than simply leaving it to chance.

**WWF wanted to understand which brands had facility connections in the regions where it wanted to accelerate its conservation work.**

WWF now uses the OAR to match apparel facilities with key conservation regions, and supplements this data with tools like the Water Risk Filter, to proactively reach out to brands and their suppliers in those regions.
Data in the OAR enables WWF to efficiently find and form transformational partnerships with the brands it most needs to reach in order to deliver effective conservation of the world’s biodiversity.
Ecosystem
Collaboration
STOP THE TRAFFIK is a non-profit working to prevent human trafficking globally through its intelligence-led approach. It works to unite people around the world by inspiring, informing, equipping and mobilizing communities to know what human trafficking is, know how to identify it and know how to respond appropriately if they see it.
STOP THE TRAFFIK collects global exploitation data from a variety of sources and overlays multiple datasets to conduct analysis to identify hotspots and trends. Aspects of this work can be very manual, resource intensive and time consuming. It is also challenging for the organization to identify relevant sources and to transform information from unstructured into structured format.

The insights from the OAR's structured data are applied internally to enhance the impact of STOP THE TRAFFIK, but also shared externally to assist its global partners with their initiatives.
“The OAR has provided an additional, structured data source that will increase our ability to identify potential exploitation hotspots and global partners.”
Housed in the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations, the New Conversations Project (NCP) is dedicated to independent research and action that measurably improves labor conditions in global supply chains.
The team at the New Conversations Project was interested in the reach of apparel brands' circular economy and sustainability strategies for a new paper on the post-COVID future of the apparel industry. They were especially looking to understand whether these strategies were inclusive of workers and suppliers, and what impacts were being considered in relation to these stakeholders. They knew from past field work that flooding and extreme heat from climate breakdown were disrupting production and livelihoods in apparel hubs like Guangzhou, Dhaka and Ho Chi Minh City. For this new paper, they needed to be able to plot apparel production against sea-level and heat projections in these places.

The OAR provided a unique data-set for this work: an open data platform that anyone can access that is also wide and deep enough to cover all of the locations in their research, and with thousands of data points in those regions.

The analysis overlaid OAR data on sea-level projections from Climate Central for a new look at how flooding threatens production, new investments and countless jobs in the fashion industry’s production center hot spots. The resulting maps showed gripping results piquing the interest of mainstream media. The alternative to using OAR data—building a factory location data set of their own—was unthinkable, due to the time, money, and data access it would require.
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Live Demo: How to Contribute to + Use the OAR
What's Next for the OAR
Q1 2022

Contribute and search additional data points:

- # of workers
- Parent Company
- Type of Product
- Type of Facility/Type of Processing*

*Public Comment Period Starting Next Week
it’s time to
untangle
supply chains

Any questions?

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