



Responsible Procurement for Coffee supported by GIZ, GCP, IDH and Solidaridad

Joint Development of Coffee Sector Guidance for Responsible Procurement

The global coffee sector depends on millions of smallholder farmers and workers, yet many are still below poverty lines and unable to earn enough for a decent standard of living. As in many agricultural products, despite the significant value generated across the chain, an insufficient share reaches producers. On top of this, smallholder farmers continue to face persistent risks and structural challenges.

Recognizing procurement's power to drive change, organizations previously pursued this work separately: GIZ in collaboration with German retailers under the umbrella of the [Sustainable Agricultural Supply Chains Initiative \(SASI\)](#) funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), while GCP, IDH and Solidaridad have worked closely with roasters and traders to develop [Coffee Common Procurement Principles](#). GCP, IDH, Solidaridad and GIZ have now joined forces, aligning their efforts into a common vision and shared framework for responsible procurement in the coffee sector, inviting all relevant stakeholders across the value chain to actively contribute to this process. This reflects the recognition that lasting change requires involvement and alignment across the full value chain.

The following retailers, roasters, and traders will collaborate contributing their perspectives, expertise, and constructive input to the development of the Coffee Sector Guidance for Responsible Procurement and will consider its recommendations within their own procurement practices as it evolves. Perspectives of additional stakeholders will be brought into the development of the Sector Guidance reflecting the whole value chain.



This collaboration includes the following milestones:

1) Development of a shared *Coffee Sector Guidance for Responsible Procurement*

The Sector Guidance will be a practical reference for companies along the supply chain, helping them assess their current purchasing practices, identify priority areas for improvement, and align commercial decision-making with sustainability objectives. It complements existing sustainability frameworks, tools, and schemes, such as the GCP Coffee Sustainability Reference Code.

The Sector Guidance is expected to evolve over time as sector engagement grows, and understanding deepens. Its development will be informed by the expertise, practical experience, and perspectives of stakeholders from across the value chain, ensuring that it is relevant, practical, and broadly applicable.

2026/Q3: Draft version of the Coffee Sector Guidance for Responsible Procurement

2026/Q4 + 2027/Q1: Stakeholder consultations

2027/Q2: Coffee Sector Guidance for Responsible Procurement finalized

2) Learning Dialogues

Learning Dialogues will provide a safe environment for learning and exploring new ideas and advancing innovation. Lessons and insights, including learnings from other sectors, will provide crucial input to create a credible and business relevant Sector Guidance.

2026/Q3 - 2027/Q1: Learning Dialogues

3) Review of purchasing practices

Participating companies will be invited to assess and review their current purchasing practices. Combining internal assessments with anonymised feedback from supply chain partners aims to build a better understanding of the current level of implementation and how purchasing practices affect different actors along the value chain, particularly coffee producers. In addition to providing practical inputs to the Sector Guidance, the insights generated will help identify good practices, common challenges, and priority areas for improvement. This will also support company efforts to comply with regulations such as CS3D that require addressing adverse impacts on suppliers.

2026/ Q3-Q4: Secure buy-in and trust of stakeholders through onboarding and consultations.

Contract external expert organizations to support implementation.

2027: Assessment roll out

4) Exploring institutionalization pathways

To secure broad sector-wide acceptance, pathways and mechanisms will be explored, required to fully institutionalize the Sector Guidance. This effort will ensure the Sector Guidance evolves from a reference document into a formally recognized, consistently applied foundation for sector practice, which is robust, credible, and durable over time.

2027: Test options for institutionalization of the Sector Guidance

Throughout all activities, all **applicable antitrust regulations will be respected** and adhered to at all times. All collaboration will be conducted in full compliance with competition law, ensuring that no exchange of commercially sensitive information or coordination of market behaviour takes place.