switchmed

Funded by the European Union

UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Morocco

SwitchMed

New Life to Textile Scraps

An overview of Post-Industrial Textile Waste valorization routes

I. What

The SwitchMed program, an initiative funded by the European Union, aims to promote circular value chains in the Mediterranean by changing how goods and services are produced and consumed.

As part of the SwitchMed / MED TEST III project, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is committed to improving the environmental performance, profitability and strategic value of the textile and clothing industries in the region.

The SwitchMed Initiative contributes to the achievement of several UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Textile waste valorisation in local circular value chains

International fashion brands demand more recycled fibres in their collections, and the market for materials from recycled sources is buoyant.

Post-industrial textile waste, such as cutting scraps, defective pieces, unsold collections, and second-quality garments from the fashion supply chain, is an untapped resource to align with the new market scenario.

In Morocco, 83,2 thousand tons of post-industrial and pre-consumer textile waste are generated annually, from which 14% are 100% cotton, 42% are cotton rich, and 10% are 100% polyester. Most of this huge amount is landfilled, a small part exported as low-cost scraps and a minimal share down-cycled in low value materials.

Technical expertise and know-how in waste sorting, collection, and classification are prerequisites for efficient, high-quality recycling and the development of circular value chains.

Proper and advanced technologies and business models are essential in transforming textile waste from a potential to an actual and profitable business.

II. Why

Benefits from textile waste valorisation

To manufacturers

- Lower production costs, turning the textile waste from an expense for landfilling into a new source of revenue and retaining its value in the local economy
- Reduce the environmental impact and the relevant remediation costs
- Reduce the dependency on limited virgin stock
- Create new business and employment opportunities within the textile recycling ecosystem.
- Increase the local industry competitiveness and meet the growing demand for products with recycled content from international brands
- Anticipate expected development in eco-design regulations in Europe.

To institutions, and other stakeholders

- Effectively improve textile waste management, in line with national and international norms
- Support the local industry's international competitiveness
- Improve strategic supply chain relations and enhance international cooperation

III. How

Textile waste management improvement

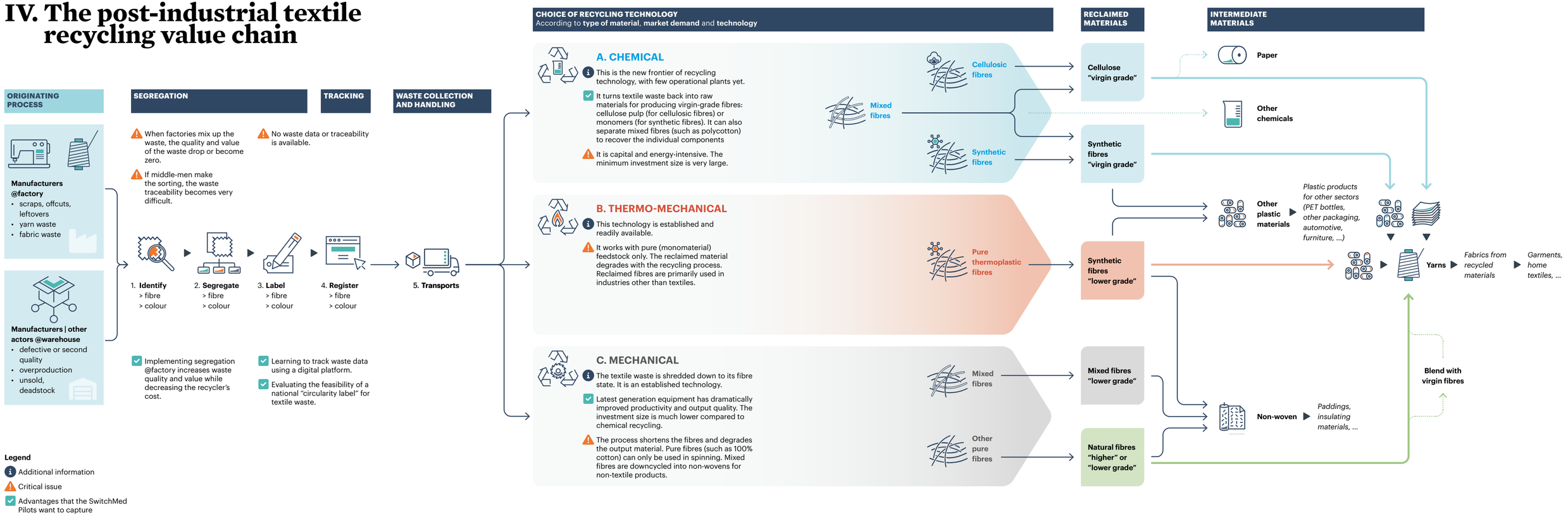
Improving textile waste segregation and collection is essential to the recycling value chain. Proper management at waste-generating factories improves waste quality and cuts waste management costs.

Trace waste handling and connect waste suppliers with recyclers
Tracking and tracing waste handling improves waste trade and is critical to ensuring an efficient and transparent market.

Select the most appropriate technology
Not all textile waste is created equal. Different types of waste are suited to different end-users and need different technologies.

Modernise recycling production capacity
Recycling technology is progressing at a fast pace. Innovation enhances the quality of recycled fibres, the flexibility of processes and widens the scope of textile fibres and blends, suitable for recycling.

IV. The post-industrial textile recycling value chain



This publication has been produced without formal United Nations editing within the framework of the SwitchMed initiative and with financial assistance from the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of UNIDO and do not reflect the views of the European Union. The opinions, figures and estimates set forth are the responsibility of the authors and should not be considered as endorsements.

SwitchMed Program co-operation partners in Morocco

Royaume du Maroc
Ministère de l'Industrie, de l'Investissement, du Commerce et de l'Economie Numérique

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Royaume du Maroc

كتابة الدولة لدى وزير الطاقة والمعادن والتنمية المستدامة المكلفة بالتنمية المستدامة

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For more information, visit SwitchMed.eu