

Empowering Sustainable Supply Chains

Sedex⁷



Introducing Sedex

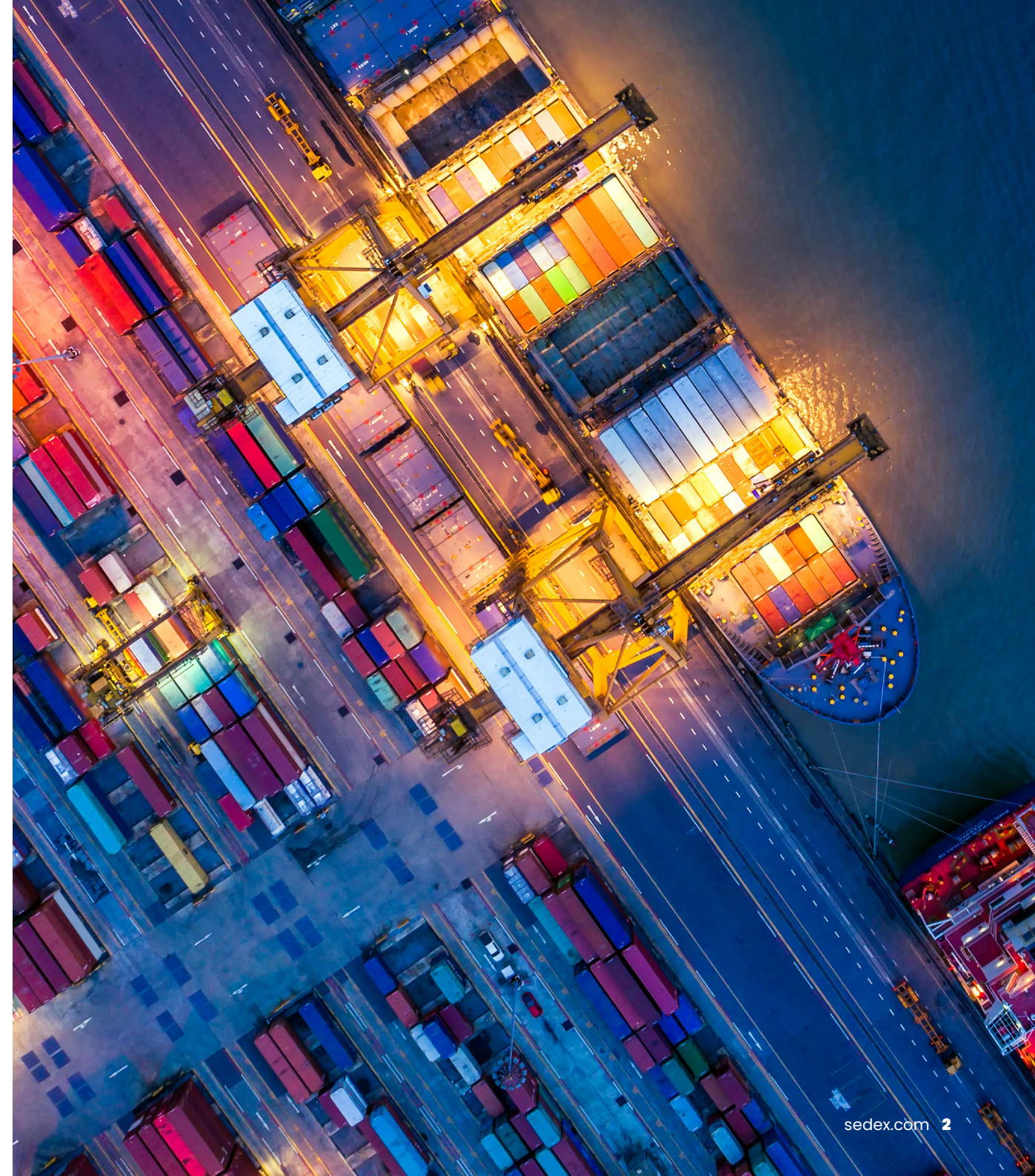
Sedex is a global technology company that specialises in data, insights and professional services to empower supply chain sustainability.

Our platform, tools and services enable businesses to easily manage and improve their environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance to meet their supply chain sustainability goals.

Sedex has 20 years of expertise and provides end-to-end supply chain solutions for all businesses, including SMETA, our world-leading site-level social audit.

We're proud to work with a community of 85,000 businesses and 104,000 supply chain sites across 35 sectors globally. This includes some of the world's most recognisable brands such as Reckitt, Nestlé, Molson Coors, Marks & Spencer, Asahi, Li & Fung, John Lewis Partnership (JLP) and Barclays, to name a few.

Our solutions provide organisations with the practical tools and guidance they need to operate ethically, source responsibly, address ESG risks and work with suppliers to ensure socially and environmentally sustainable practices.



Our vision and mission



Sedex's vision is to be a leader in making global supply chains more socially and environmentally sustainable.

To deliver our vision, our mission is to supply data-led insights, accessible tools and exceptional services for more sustainable supply chains. Our solutions enable companies to continuously improve environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance and outcomes.

We are committed to enabling improvement and positive impacts, helping companies drive sustainable practices deeper into their supply chains through the power of data and technology.

We offer the accessible tools and holistic solutions business leaders need to meet the challenges of multiple sustainability-related requirements. We help to deepen corporate understanding of sustainability-related operational challenges and the return on investment of addressing these.

We believe a sustainable business is a successful and resilient one.

[Learn more about the return on investment of Sedex's solutions.](#)

Sedex at a glance



85,000+
members



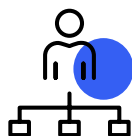
104,000+
worksites



180
countries



6
regional
offices



35+
industries
across our
membership

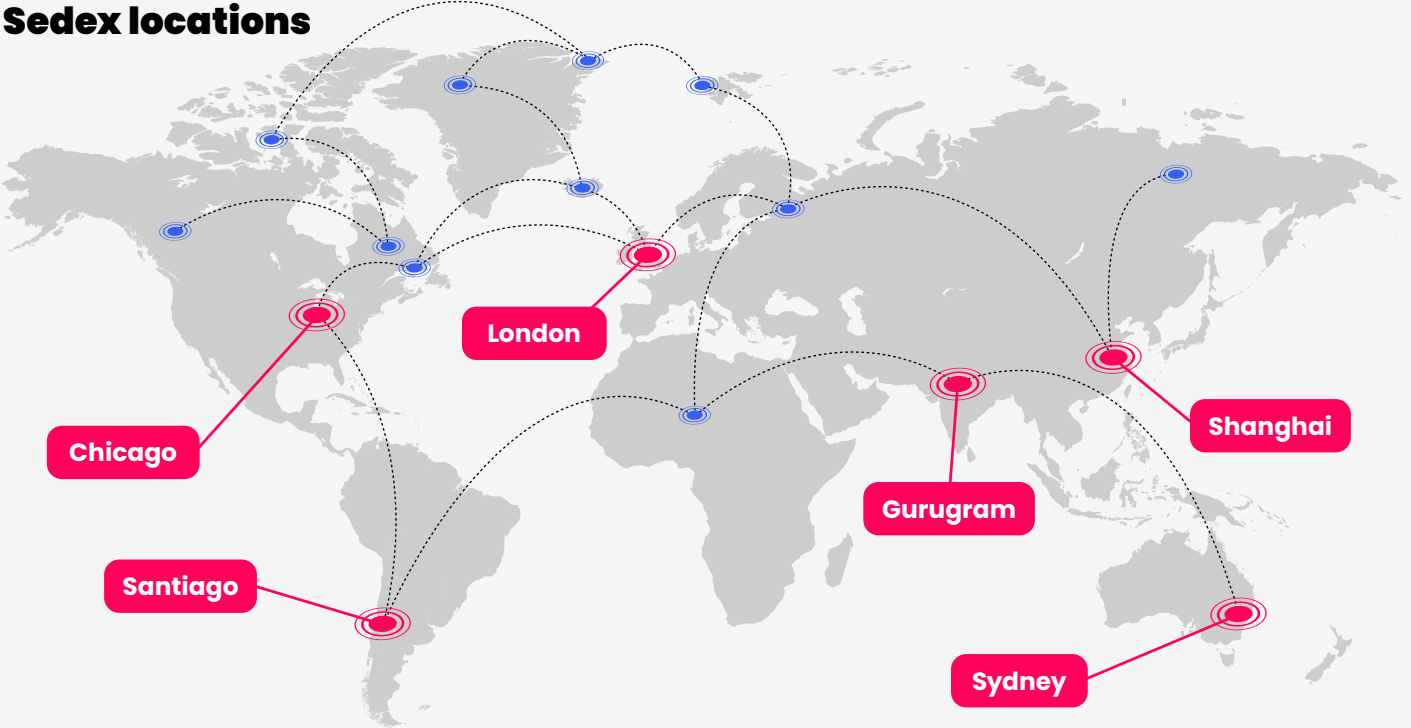


20
years
of data

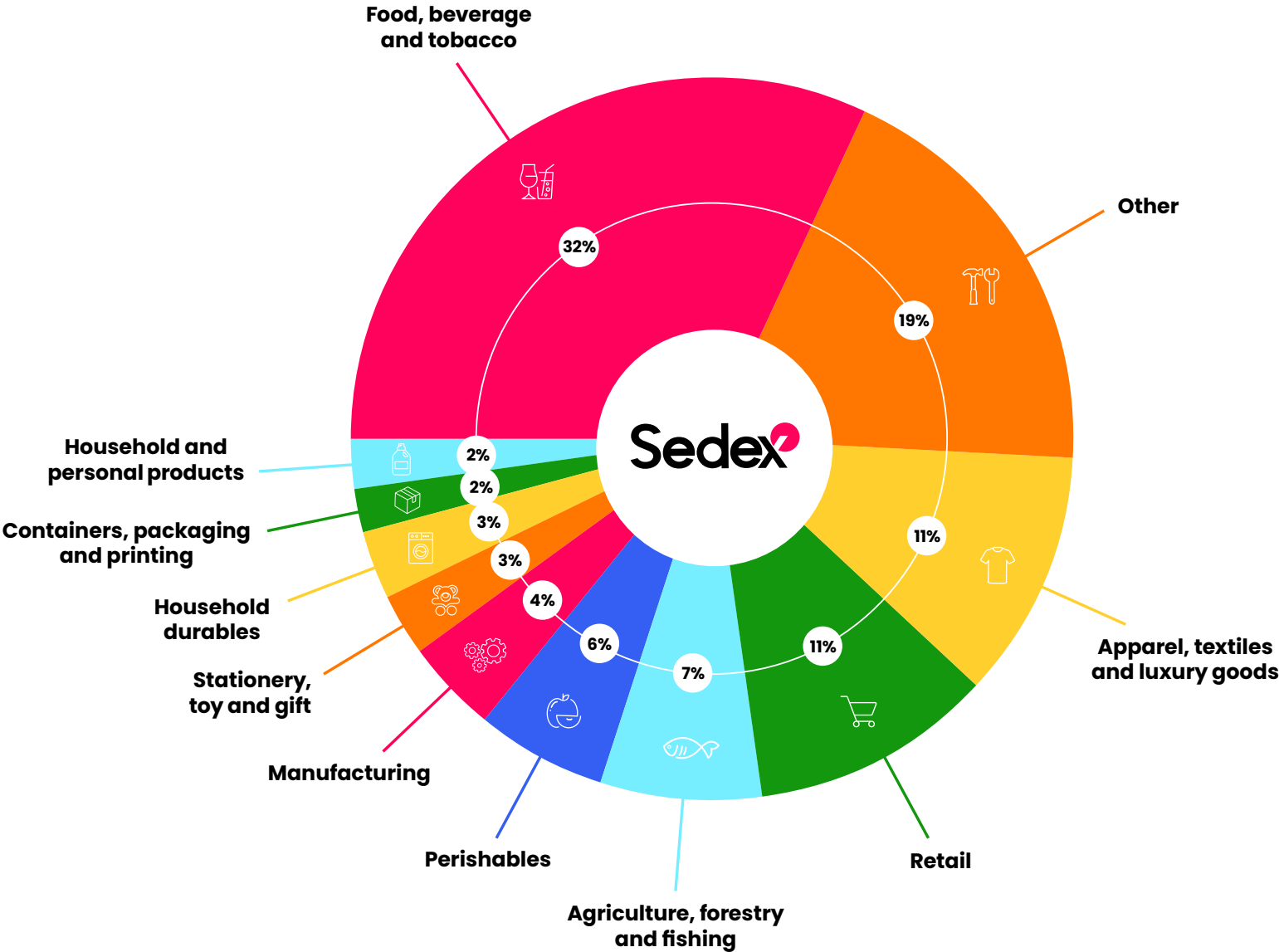


55,000+ audits added to our platform in 2023

Sedex locations



Sedex member sectors



Driving sustainability in supply chains

Among businesses, investors, governments and consumers, there is a growing awareness of the risks to workers and the environment in supply chains globally.

Through corporate sustainability – the obligation for businesses to operate in a way that is sustainable for the environment, society and its stakeholders – companies play a vital role in combatting these issues.

Businesses' stakeholders expect them to contribute by driving more sustainable practices in both their own operations and their supply chains.

In doing so, companies also reap benefits including:

- **A more resilient supply chain, through more robust operations at worksite-level.**
- **Effective sustainability risk management.**
- **Demonstrable progress on ESG metrics.**
- **Evident compliance with corporate sustainability laws.**
- **Stronger, more credible reputation among stakeholders.**

Sedex believes companies can be powerful agents for good by supporting long-term sustainable success.



Promoting sustainable business practices

Sedex's solutions empower businesses around the world to operate more sustainably, for the benefit of all stakeholders.

A methodology founded on international frameworks

Sedex tools and services align with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), and support reaching the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our solutions are built on the principles of these, as well as the **Ethical Trading Initiative Base Code** and conventions of the International Labour Organization.



Promoting sustainable business practices



Building supply chain transparency

Transparency is essential for sourcing sustainably and tackling social and environmental issues in supply chains. A company must understand their whole supply chain in order to identify and address the risks to workers, communities and the environment present within it.



Tackling forced labour

Forced labour is the most extreme form of labour exploitation, making it a salient and high-risk issue for many companies. It's estimated that 17.3 million people worldwide are victims of forced labour¹ in the private sector alone.

Forced labour is notoriously difficult to detect. Businesses need effective tools to detect, remedy and prevent forced labour risks in their supply chains.



Protecting workers through occupational health and safety

Healthy, safe working environments enable workers to thrive, contribute to the SDGs and are a legal requirement. They also support operational efficiency, resilience and success². Businesses must protect their own employees and check that appropriate health and safety standards are in place throughout their supply chains.



Driving gender equality and women's empowerment

Gender inequality is recognised as an endemic issue globally. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by many issues in global supply chains, including forced labour where they make up 58% of victims³. Through the Sedex Platform, companies can collect, analyse and make decisions using gender-disaggregated data.



Promoting sustainable business practices



Protecting the environment

To manage environmental risks, companies need to understand the impacts of their activities. With this visibility, they can maintain high environmental standards in their own business and support these standards across their supply chain.

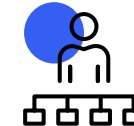
Businesses' active participation in tackling climate change and other environmental issues is increasingly a legal requirement, a consumer concern and investors' expectation.



Driving sustainable livelihoods and living wages

Living wages and comprehensive benefits are critical components of decent work, directly support several of the SDGs and bring business benefits⁴. Conversely, poor wages fuel exploitation risks, inequality and poverty⁵.

Many companies recognise that legal minimum wages are not sufficient in several countries, but that they can help to provide better wages. Wage data is key to understanding the gap between current pay and benefits, and the target local living wage.



Engaging with suppliers to effect change

Businesses must collaborate with their suppliers to successfully drive effective change in supply chains. Understanding suppliers' situations and challenges is critical to creating workable solutions.

By engaging with suppliers, companies can make informed decisions about the best way to support, including the changes they may need to make to their own practices. They can build lasting partnerships with suppliers to create long-term solutions with mutually beneficial outcomes.

1. See the International Labour Organization's (ILO) statistics [on forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking](#)
2. For example, see p.25 in ILO paper ["The current state of research on the two-way linkages between productivity and well-being"](#), 2022
3. ILO statistics on [forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking](#)
4. See Business Fights Poverty, ["The Case for Living Wages"](#), 2022
5. See the ILO, ["The working poor"](#), 2019

Overcoming supply chain challenges

Companies face many difficulties in their efforts to build supply chain transparency, manage risks and operate more responsibly.

- The complexity of global supply chains makes it harder to see where components, products and services originate and who the workers in supply chains are.
- Endemic issues, such as poverty or poor law enforcement contribute to social and environmental impacts.
- Varying legal, social and economic standards across nations and industries make it harder for companies to embed consistently sustainable business practices and operations.
- Ethical and environmental standards are varied and sometimes voluntary, with mixed levels of uptake companies. This can lead to ineffective standards and excessive administrative burden for many businesses.

Sedex supports businesses to navigate these complex challenges with a single universal standard, methodology and tools that can be used across industries.

Our Platform enables businesses to collaborate and share information to reduce the administrative burden.



Our solutions



The Sedex Platform, professional services and tools work together to help members manage their supply chains and detect, prevent and remedy issues.

Our leading tools include our pioneering data exchange platform, which enables businesses to conduct risk assessment and self-assessment, data analysis and reporting. We also offer our social audit SMETA, a Virtual Assessment, bespoke Consulting services and e-Learning portal.

[Discover Sedex's solutions](#)

Our solutions



Supply chain transparency

To identify ways to source more sustainably, and to identify, prevent and remediate negative impacts for workers and the environment.



Reporting

To fulfil reporting requirements and help companies demonstrate progress against their ESG goals.



Supply chain auditing and assessment

Assessing suppliers to understand practices, environmental maturity and working conditions at site level, validating self reported information. Companies all over the world use our social audit, SMETA, to do this.

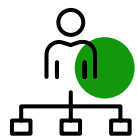


Risk assessment

To understand inherent risks in supply chains and prioritise action where risks are highest. Sedex's Platform also incorporates site-specific data on members' and suppliers' sites to build risk profiles.



Our solutions



Supply chain mapping

To understand how an organisation's products or services are produced, where and by whom.



Data storing, sharing and analysis

To draw actionable insights and make informed business decisions.



Community network

Bringing businesses together to collaborate, share real-world solutions and discuss challenges.



Consulting, training and guidance

Helping organisations create supply chain sustainability or responsible sourcing programmes that meet investor, consumer and legal requirements.



Meeting legislation

Helping organisations meet reporting and supply chain due diligence requirements, as mandated by various national laws.





Contact us on **communications@sedex.com** to learn more about our work, our membership and our solutions.

To see how our solutions could support your business, contact us on **new.business@sedex.com**

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