

# SUSTAINABILITY BRIEF

## Protecting Children in Our Palm Oil Supply Chain How Wilmar Builds Supplier Capacity for Safeguarding Child Rights



Every child deserves to grow up in a safe and nurturing environment, free from harm, fear and exploitation. However, gaps in awareness, protective systems and coordinated response continue to place children at risk.

Recognising these risks, Wilmar has adopted a structured approach to safeguarding children's rights across our operations and supply chain.<sup>1</sup> Since the launch of our [Child Protection Policy](#) in 2017, Wilmar has integrated child protection principles into our operational practices and extended these requirements throughout our supply chain. Our approach is structured around three key areas:

1. Implementing child protection in Wilmar's operations
2. Empowering children through education and awareness
3. Extending child protection measures across the supply chain

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.wilmar-international.com/docs/default-source/default-document-library/sustainability/sustainability-brief--child-protection\\_final.pdf?sfvrsn=78565915\\_1](https://www.wilmar-international.com/docs/default-source/default-document-library/sustainability/sustainability-brief--child-protection_final.pdf?sfvrsn=78565915_1)

This approach goes beyond the prohibition of child labour, focusing on creating safe and nurturing environments for children within our communities. Through close collaboration with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other stakeholders, we work with our suppliers to embed child protection measures within their operations, thereby amplifying the impact beyond their immediate footprint.

This sustained commitment has been recognised globally, with Wilmar emerging as the only company to achieve a 10/10 score in The State of Children’s Rights and Business Benchmark 2025 by the Global Child Forum and Boston Consulting Group<sup>2</sup> – marking the fourth consecutive year Wilmar has achieved this top ranking. This achievement reaffirms our commitment to advancing children’s rights across our operations, communities and supply chain.

### SPOT STOP SUPPORT: CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE



In 2025, Wilmar collaborated with [Global Shepherds](https://www.global-shepherds.com/) to launch the SPOT STOP SUPPORT programme focused on awareness raising and practical implementation of child sexual abuse prevention and response within workplaces. The programme was supported by Nestlé Human Rights Fund for palm oil and administered by Winrock International. The programme aims to create a collective commitment to a culture of zero tolerance for abuse and exploitation of children by enhancing and strengthening an inclusive culture of safeguarding.

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.wilmar-international.com/docs/default-source/default-document-library/sustainability/pr-global-child-forum-2025-results.pdf?sfvrsn=7bce6184\\_6](https://www.wilmar-international.com/docs/default-source/default-document-library/sustainability/pr-global-child-forum-2025-results.pdf?sfvrsn=7bce6184_6)

The programme was delivered through a two-part workshop series focused on the prevention of and response to child sexual abuse. The first workshop was held in Sandakan, Sabah, in May 2025. It introduced the SPOT STOP SUPPORT concept and equipped participants with the ability to recognise indicators of child abuse, understand appropriate actions to take, and provide compassionate, survivor-centred support. The workshop incorporated interactive learning sessions, case study simulations, and real-time reporting exercises to enhance participants' understanding and practical application of the SPOT STOP SUPPORT concept. The workshop was structured around three key topics:

- Understanding Child Sexual Abuse
- Safeguarding and Reporting
- Responding to Disclosures

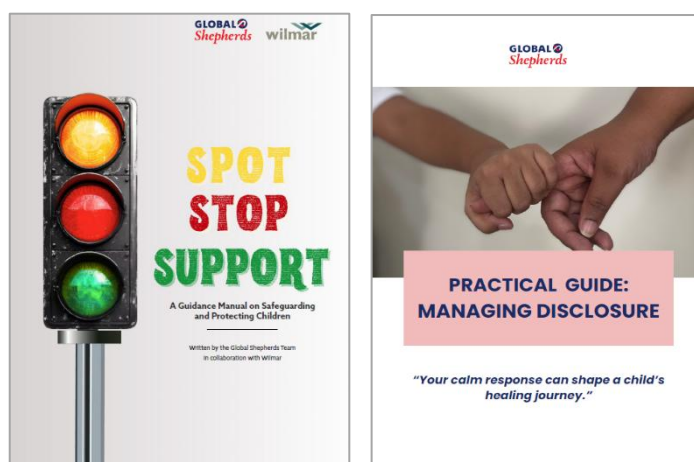
Building on the first session, the second workshop, held on 24 July 2025, emphasised managing disclosures and developing awareness materials. The workshop aimed to strengthen participants' skills in handling disclosures from child survivors using a trauma-informed approach. Through practical exercises, participants explored how harmful responses can silence survivors while reinforcing the importance of empathetic communication and creating safe spaces. The session also guided participants in developing effective, context-appropriate awareness materials through the use of the storyboard method.



Both sessions were delivered using a range of interactive and participatory approaches designed to encourage active engagement and practical learning. These included structured group activities, facilitated brainstorming sessions, and scenario-based team exercises, which enabled participants to apply concepts in realistic contexts. The participatory methods promoted peer learning, self-reflection and open discussion, allowing participants to share experiences, explore challenges and develop practical responses relevant to their operational settings.

Information Education Communication (IEC) materials were provided to support and guide the workshop sessions, including a [guidance manual](#), a [practical handbook](#), [child-friendly storybooks](#), and [awareness posters](#).

These materials were used to reinforce key messages, facilitate discussion, and enhance participants' understanding of child protection concepts. The materials also served as practical tools that participants could adapt and apply within their respective operations to support ongoing awareness and implementation efforts.



## OUTCOMES AND POST-PROGRAMME SUPPORT

The programme has yielded meaningful progress in strengthening child protection awareness and action. Key takeaways include participants gaining a deeper understanding of what constitutes child sexual abuse and the importance of addressing such issues in a sensitive and effective manner. Beyond raising awareness, the programme enhanced their ability to identify signs of abuse, respond appropriately, and manage disclosures with care and responsibility. Following the programme, Global Shepherds and Wilmar offered additional guidance and support to the participants where needed.

## WILMAR'S BROADER CHILD PROTECTION APPROACH

This SPOT STOP SUPPORT programme is part of Wilmar's wider commitment to safeguarding children, as set out in our [Child Protection Policy](#). The policy sets out clear expectations for both our operations and suppliers. In 2020, we partnered with [BSR](#) and other consumer brand companies to develop and publish our [Child Protection Policy Implementation Manual](#) for Indonesia, followed by another manual for [Malaysia](#) in 2023. The manuals provide practical guidance to help suppliers translate these principles into action.



Over the years, Wilmar has conducted multiple supplier workshops, covering child protection, child sexual abuse prevention and prohibition of child labour. Alongside our supplier-focused initiatives, Wilmar also implements internal programmes to safeguard children within our operations. These include continuous educational workshops, awareness campaigns for parents and children, and regular health check-ups and screenings in our crèches and schools.

Together, these initiatives reflect Wilmar's continued commitment to fostering safe, inclusive, and supportive environments for children across our operations and supply chain. Looking ahead, we will continue to strengthen supplier capacity, promote early intervention and embed child safeguarding as a core principle of our sustainability approach.

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