

SUSTAINABILITY BRIEF

Update from the field

November 2017

School Redevelopment Programme in Indonesia

As a global company, with operations in rural landscape around the world, Wilmar is committed to social development and helping to build a sustainable society. We endeavour to make contributions towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as adopted by the United Nations, and to support community development efforts in developing countries.

Obtaining a quality education is the foundation to improving livelihoods and sustainable development. In Indonesia, compulsory education lasts nine years from age 7 to age 15.



Source: [UNESCO Institute for Statistics](#)

As part of Wilmar's endeavour to ensure that the children of our workers in Indonesia, as well as members of the local community where we operate, have free access to quality education and share in the benefits of oil palm development, we have embarked on a school redevelopment programme. With this programme, we are also answering the government's call for the private sector to help improve the quality of rural schools.

Currently, over 97% of children living in our plantations who are of school-going age attend school. We keep track of children who do not attend school, and are engaging with their families to either reintegrate these children back into schools or enrol them in non-formal education programmes such as vocational training.



School buses are provided to shuttle children safely to school and back

All 15 schools in and around our oil palm estates in Indonesia have been scheduled for upgrading and redevelopment works. This will benefit between 6,500 and 7,000 children in pre-primary school through to secondary school annually. Our aim is to ensure that these children have the opportunity to excel and succeed, just like their peers in the urban areas.



Completed pilot school in Gersindo Minang Plantation, West Sumatra

Two pilot schools in West Sumatra have been completed, and are being replicated across the remaining 13 schools. The target completion date across all schools is 2020. The redevelopment programme for each school will be initially managed by a senior management team from Wilmar, before being handed over to a local management team comprising of teachers and Wilmar staff volunteers upon completion.

Students will have access to computer labs, science labs, a well-stocked library, as well as a range of extra-curricular activities ranging from music and arts to sports and uniformed groups.



Secondary school students attending IT class in the school computer lab

Students attending our pilot schools, as well as their parents, have reacted very positively to the redeveloped schools. School attendance is at an all-time high, and a 100% of our primary school students passed the national examinations in 2017. Students have also excelled in their extra-curricular activities, and have won district level competitions in sepak takraw, volley ball, story-telling and more.



Scouts of Indonesia

Complementing the school redevelopment programme, Wilmar will also be launching a scholarships programme to enable outstanding students to attend top universities at the national and provincial levels. Our mission is to provide these students with the opportunity to fulfil their dreams and pursue their careers of choice.

Please watch this [video](#) for more details on our School Redevelopment Programme in Indonesia.

Following the success of this programme in Indonesia, we have also embarked on a School Redevelopment Programme across our estates in Africa.