



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **News Release**

### **Championing the Rights and Protection of Children**

*Collaborative Effort by Industry Leaders to Prioritise Children in Plantations*

**Singapore, 14 December 2020** – Wilmar International Limited (Wilmar) today launched its [Child Protection Policy Implementation Manual](#), which was developed together with Business for Social Responsibility (BSR). The manual is part of program launched in 2019 to strengthen and protect the rights of children living in oil palm plantations, in collaboration with industry leaders including Colgate Palmolive, Nestlé, Procter & Gamble, PepsiCo and Neste, among others.

The published manual is developed specifically for the Indonesian context, with Wilmar and BSR completing several rounds of stakeholder consultations with Indonesian child protection authorities, non-governmental organisation (NGO) experts, unions, and international organisations such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). The manual is designed to be comprehensive and pragmatic to facilitate implementation while incorporating pictorial field guidance for universal understanding. A series of workshops attended by 190 participants was also organised to build capacity and guide Wilmar's suppliers towards better understanding of child protection within their operations.

Perpetua George, General Manager of Group Sustainability for Wilmar, said, "This is part of our ongoing work and commitment towards human rights, which included the launch of our Child Protection Policy in 2017 followed by the Human Rights Framework and Women's Charter in 2019. Whilst we continue to strengthen our efforts to safeguard and protect rights of children living in our own plantations, it is also our intention to also ensure that we strive to establish an environment for these children to thrive".

"More importantly, with the multi-stakeholder and industry-wide support and collaboration, we aim to drive the transformation of the oil palm industry towards becoming proud stewards of child protection", she further added.

As part of the programme, the next phase will be a pilot for further refinement of the manual, with an intention to adapt the manual to allow for more generic applicability outside of Wilmar's supplier base. This will include partnering with other oil palm companies, in the field testing and development of versions for other palm producing countries, like Malaysia.

Jeremy Prepscius, Vice President of Asia Pacific for BSR, said, "BSR welcomes the publication of Wilmar's Child Protection Implementation Manual, an important resource to deepen supplier understanding, respect and implementation of child protection and child rights while enabling learning and improvement opportunities for better plantation management practices in Indonesia".

In 2019, Wilmar was recognised to be among the top global achievers to create a positive impact on children's rights, in an independent report published by the Global Child Forum, which is a Swedish non-profit foundation. GCF also previously assessed Wilmar in 2018 as the best performing company in Southeast Asia for protecting children's rights.

## **ABOUT WILMAR'S SUSTAINABILITY**

As a leading agribusiness group, Wilmar recognises that we have a fundamental role to play in developing quality products required by the world while ensuring we have a responsible and sustainable manner of production. We adopt a holistic approach to sustainability that is fully integrated with our business model.

Guided by the philosophy that our business must enhance stakeholder value while minimizing our environmental footprint, our business practices are aligned with universally acceptable social and environmental standards. Wilmar's No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation<sup>1</sup> (NDPE) Policy underpins our aspiration to make a positive impact and drive transformation across the palm oil industry.

For more information, please visit [www.wilmar-international.com/sustainability](http://www.wilmar-international.com/sustainability).

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.wilmar-international.com/sustainability/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/No-Deforestation-No-Peat-No-Exploitation-Policy.pdf>