
Action Plan to Tackle Seafood Supply Chain Abuses

Update, 23 November 2016



Exactly one year ago, Nestlé published an [Action Plan](#) (pdf, 650Kb) detailing our commitment to eliminating labour and human rights abuses in the seafood supply chain in Thailand. It contained a series of actions designed to protect workers from abuses, to improve working conditions and to tackle unacceptable practices including juveniles and teenagers working on fishing vessels. A year on, this update shows how the plan has been implemented to date, with the support of our partners.

Traceability

Over 99% of the seafood ingredients that Nestlé sources from its seafood supply chain in Thailand are now traceable back to fishing vessels and farms due to actions taken as part of the plan. With the cooperation of Nestlé's suppliers, traceability tests have helped to validate the origin of finished goods right back to the fishing vessels and farms where they were caught and processed. Traceability is a vital step towards identifying and eliminating human rights and labour abuses. Nestlé will continue to work with others to maintain extremely high levels of visibility throughout the supply chain.

Training and Demonstration Boat

Nestlé, Thai Union, and Verité continue to work closely with the Royal Thai Government, Thailand's Department of Fisheries, and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) to develop a practical training programme to educate vessel owners, boat captains, and crew members on living and working conditions aboard a fishing vessel and on worker's rights in Thailand. The Royal Thai Government and SEAFDEC helped provide a fishing vessel typical of the coastal fishing fleet for this effort.

This vessel is being renovated to demonstrate acceptable living and working conditions aboard a vessel of its size. It will be utilised as part of a "hands on" educational experience at different fishing ports in Thailand. Nestlé recently met with all of partners involved in the initiative to discuss renovations of the living and sleeping quarters of the vessel. A design has been approved and renovations are underway, with deployment expected in early 2017.

Grievance mechanism and emergency response team

In March this year, Nestlé announced a partnership with the Issara Institute, a US registered and Thailand based not-for-profit organisation, specialising in worker voice and grievance mechanisms. The partnership will help drive improvements in conditions by providing workers with a new channel to voice their concerns.

Nestlé's suppliers are working constructively with Issara to provide information on the locations that form part of the supply chain for Nestlé's products. Issara is now in the process of visiting these sites in order to implement its Inclusive Labour Monitoring programme. This is underway with Nestlé's supplier Thai Union, which has been working with Issara since 2014 on a range of projects, including the establishment of the current programme. To learn more, please visit www.issarainstitute.org

Wider collaboration

As part of our commitment to engaging with industry stakeholders, Nestlé joined the Seafood Task Force (formerly known as the Shrimp Sustainable Supply Chain Task Force) earlier this year and we continue to participate in Task Force multi-stakeholder meetings. We support the notion that collaborative actions can lead to broader and more impactful solutions to address human rights and labour abuses. We look forward to participating in the Task Force's efforts.