From Exploitative Plantations to Store Shelves: Exposing the Palm Oil Supply Chain

Indonesia is the world's biggest producer of palm fruit, crude palm oil, and refined palm oil. In 2020, \$10B in refined palm oil was imported from Indonesia—more than half of all global imports.

Palm fruit comes from oil palm trees that grow fresh fruit bunches. These bunches are harvested by adult and child laborers, who are subjected to exploitative labor conditions on palm oil plantations in Indonesia and other parts of the world. Harvesters' steep daily targets are unachievable within a standard workday, compelling them to work long hours without overtime pay or incur sharp deductions in wages. Workers are also exposed to toxic chemicals without personal protective equipment, and some

experience physical or sexual violence.



Palm oil is used to produce dozens of consumer products, from cosmetics to baked goods and detergent. Many of these goods end up in American stores and households.



INDONESIA

Crude oils made from palm fruit are refined into different products, such as refined palm oil and non-edible oils. Many of these oils will be further processed in Indonesia into goods like oleochemicals—a key ingredient used in make-up and soap products.

Refined Palm Oil & Refined Palm Kernel Oil

COLLECTION PORT

Fresh Fruit

Bunches

Harvested

From Indonesia, billions of dollars worth of refined palm oil is traded to China, Pakistan, Russia, and beyond. For example, in 2020, China imported nearly 60% of its refined palm oil and over 80% of its refined palm kernel oil from Indonesia.

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U.S. imports from Indonesia \$610M in refined palm oil \$229M in refined palm kernel oil CHINA AND THE REST OF THE

Crude Palm Oil & Crude Palm Kernel Oil

REFINERY



The palm oil supply chain exposes American shoppers and businesses to labor risks: products containing palm oil from Indonesia may be tainted by child labor and forced labor.



Further Processed Products (including animal feed, biofuels, and soap)