

# FIGHT AGAINST FORCED AND CHILD LABOUR REPORT- CANADA

**STATEMENT 2023-24** 

## **FOREWARD**

# WHAT IS FORCED LABOUR?

Forced labour and child labour are a violation of fundamental human rights, and can take many different forms, including:

- Slavery
- Servitude
- Forced and compulsory labour
- Human trafficking

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) defines forced labour as "all work or service which is exacted from any person under the threat of a penalty and for which the person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily." The ILO estimates that there are approximately 27.6 million victims of forced labour worldwide, including 17.3 million in the private economy.

Forced labour and child labour are further defined in section 2 of Canada's Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act.

Danone has a zero-tolerance approach to forced labour. It's our belief that to make progress businesses, governments and civil society as a whole must work together to challenge and prevent forced labour.

In this statement, we set out what we are doing to prevent forced labour in our business operations and our supply chain.



## **OUR AMBITIONS**

## THE DANONE IMPACT JOURNEY

Launched in 2023, The Danone Impact Journey is built around 3 core pillars: Health, Nature and People & Communities. It grounds our priorities as a certified B Corp and as a Société à Mission, as well as helping us to embed impact into our business structure, management practices, and performance indicators.

The Danone Impact Journey builds on 3 key foundational principles:

- 1. Recognising that the 3 pillars are codependent. Each pillar is important for progress and has a defined set of priorities which are translated into mid to long-term objectives.
- 2. Embedding sustainability into the business from a strategic, operational and financial perspective.
- 3. Focusing on (our ability to meaningfully impact the food systems and ecosystems we operate in.

THROUGH THE DANONE IMPACT JOURNEY, WE'RE CHAMPIONING A RENEWED SOCIAL CONTRACT — FOSTERING A PROSPEROUS AND INCLUSIVE ECOSYSTEM, UPHOLDING HUMAN RIGHTS AND PURSUING SOCIAL PROGRESS.



As a Société à Mission and Group evolving towards full B Corp certification, it's imperative that our social impact is woven through every aspect of our business. From suppliers to consumers, and across our communities both local and global.

When it comes to our business practices and stakeholder engagement, we hold ourselves to the highest standards. The relationships we foster with our stakeholders are grounded in trust and guided by open dialogue. Through this dialogue, we can renew our Social Contract built on a foundation of human rights, dignity, and shared social progress.

# **PROGRESS IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS**



The Danone Impact Journey was launched to provide a roadmap to achieve our vision of supporting thriving people and communities. We have committed to championing a renewed social contract, fostering a prosperous and inclusive ecosystem, upholding human rights and pursuing social progress.



Following our salient human rights analysis, we further strengthened our approach by publishing our <u>Human Rights Policy</u>. For further information see page 7.



We updated Danone's Sustainability Principles (DSP) for Business Partners and for Danoners which is applicable to our full value chain, including our own operations. The DSP sets out the clear expectations we have of our suppliers and employees on social, environmental and ethical issues. For further information see page 7.



In Canada we have included the DSP in all new contracts with suppliers since 2017.



As a member of the Consumer Good Forum (CGF)'s Human Rights Coalition working to end forced labour, we have pledged to develop and deploy Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) systems. These focus on preventing forced labour in our own operations, with the aim of reaching 100% coverage by 2025. This includes external workers who are hired by temporary work agencies or subcontractors to carry out regular and continuous work at our entities. The first steps of the Coalition due diligence framework were piloted in our Poland and Brazil business units.



By the end of 2023, 5,750 Danone employees globally had completed the dedicated e-learning training program on human rights and the fight against forced labour. In 2023, Danone developed a new training course targeting all employees worldwide and addressing "Sustainability & Human Rights Fundamentals". It will be translated into 24 languages and will be mandatory for all employees worldwide, with a target of reaching 100% of connected Danone employees by 2024 and 100% of nonconnected employees by 2025.



We strengthened our employees' engagement on human rights through the Human Rights Community Network, which enables information and best practice sharing.



Danone Canada is B Corp certified, demonstrating our commitment to use business as a force for good.

## **OUR STRUCTURE & OPERATIONS**

# **DANONE AT A GLANCE**

**2023 KEY FIGURES** 

# DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

worldwide
#1
in fresh dairy products,
in plant-based foods
and beverages

#### WORLDWIDE



in packaged waters and early-life nutrition

#### WORLDWIDE



in adult nutrition

9.5%

NET DEBT/

EBITDA

#### **KEY FINANCIAL FIGURES**

€27.6 BN +7%
SALES

12.6 % (+40bps)

RECURRING OPERATING MARGIN €3.54 +3.4%

RECURRING EPS **€2.6**BN

FREE CASH FLOW €2.10

DIVIDEND PER SHARE

#### SALES BY GEOGRAPHIC ZONES









Essential Dairy and Plant-Based (EDP) Specialized Nutrition (SN) Waters

#### CONTINUING OUR PATH



#### SOCIÉTÉ À MISSION SINCE 2020

first French listed company to adopt the "Société à Mission" status.

82.5% SALES

covered by B Corp certification. (vs. 74.2% in 2022)



#### FOCUSING ON HEALTH



89.2%

SALES IN VOLUME OF DAIRY, PLANT-BASED AND WATERS PRODUCTS RATED > 3.5 STARS BY HEALTH STAR RATING

#### FOCUSING ON NATURE

## AAA

## AWARDED BY CDP FOR THE 5<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN A ROW

Score obtained as part of the CDP Climate Change, CDP Water security and CDP Forests questionnaire



#### **FOCUSING ON PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES**



79% FOR THE INCLUSION INDEX,

measured through the Danone People Survey (+2pts vs peers)

100,000 EMPLOYEES IN OVER 55 COUNTRIES.



## **OUR SUPPLY CHAIN**

As one of the world's biggest food and beverage manufacturers, we understand our impact and influence not only on global food systems, but also the people who work in the industry.

It's important to us that our sourcing has a positive impact, creating jobs and opportunities for people around the world, and promoting human rights.

Our suppliers also have a major role to play in delivering our Danone Impact Journey. This is why we're fostering partnerships and developing mutually beneficial working relationships. Transparency, as well as a mindset of continuous improvement, are key to our supplier engagement, and the promotion of sustainable and inclusive growth.

## RESPECTING THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE FOOD

We know that global and complex agri-food supply chains carry the risk of human rights and environmental violations. Whilst this is more acutely the case upstream at farm or plantation level, it's also a risk at our Company's Tier 1 supply level, as well as in our own entities specifically for the external workforce.

To address these risks, we have:

- Established a set of fundamental sustainability principles, detailed in the key policies section on page 7.
- Developed due diligence systems tailored to the respective scopes.
- Continued to engage with our suppliers, working together towards more responsible practices.

# FROM GROUND TO GROCERY STORE

The suppliers we work with are our principal partners in ensuring ethical sourcing. We're part of the same natural and business ecosystem and share many of the same challenges. To make positive progress, we must build solutions together.

As a foundation, all of our suppliers are required to adhere to Danone's Sustainability Principles for Business Partners. But they're invited to go further. We aim to leverage frameworks like B Corp™, Science Based Targets initiative, and CDP to engage suppliers on this journey. Continuous improvement and collaborative problem-solving are a 'win-win' for us and our suppliers, and the key to sourcing in a way that's good for both consumers and society.















## **RAW MATERIAL SOURCING**

Ingredient supply chains have different structures. Raw milk is the simplest, where we work with thousands of farmers directly or have a maximum of one intermediary. Other ingredients, such as fruit, sugar, cocoa, soy or palm oil, are traded and transformed through complex chains that involve several intermediaries. The challenge here is to have visibility of production locations, so that the risks of human rights violations can be assessed and mitigated (see more details on transparency on page 10).

## TIER 1 SUPPLIERS

Danone sources from over 50,000 suppliers of processed raw materials, packaging or services around the worl Our RESPECT program provides due diligence for Danone's Tier 1 suppliers (see more details on page 11).

## **PRODUCTION SITES**

The raw materials that go into our food and drink products are processed at one of our 153 production sites around the world. We're strengthening our internal Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) process to include on site contractor workers and external workers hired through temporary work agencies (for more information see page 10).

## DISTRIBUTION

Our products are transported direct to retailers both large and small and specialised channels (such as hospitals, clinics and pharmacies). These networks then distribute our products through their own supply chains, before they reach the consumer.

# **OUR APPROACH**

In 2022, with the support of Shift, (the leading centre of expertise on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights,) we concluded the salient human right impact assessment started in 2021. In 2022, Danone strengthened its human rights approach by publishing its <a href="Human Rights Policy">Human Rights Policy</a> and updating the <a href="Danone Sustainability Principles for Business Partners">Danone</a> (DSP) applicable to its value chain, as well as the <a href="Danone Sustainability Principles & Implementation Note for Danone and Employees">Danone and Employees</a>.

## KFY POLICIES

#### **HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY**

Our Human Rights Policy reaffirms our commitment to respect and strengthen human rights both in our own workforce and our value chain. The policy clearly articulates the human rights priorities we're focusing on.

#### These are:

- Ending exploitation. This involves prohibiting child and forced labour, prohibiting harassment and abuse, and ensuring reasonable working hours.
- Decent work. This means granting a decent wage and at least the applicable legal
  minimum or standard pay, committing to safe and healthy working conditions,
  and granting freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining. It also
  means ensuring that all workers are treated equally with respect and dignity and
  fostering a positive culture towards diversity and inclusion.
- Respecting people in communities impacted by our activities. This involves
  respecting the land rights of communities and indigenous people and respecting
  their right to a healthy environment and healthy nutrition. For example, not
  negatively impacting their access to water.

The Human Rights Policy also elaborates on our responsibilities as a company, and the expectations we have of our business partners. It sets out our approach for implementing human rights due diligence, with our external workforce identified as a key priority in our own operations scope.

#### DANONE SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES FOR BUSINESS PARTNERS (DSP)

This policy sets out our fundamental values and principles related to social and human rights, environmental protection, and business ethics. Values and principles that we expect all our suppliers and business partners to uphold. Danone is currently evolving these Principles into a Sustainable Sourcing Policy that will gradually apply to suppliers from 2024 onwards.

To guide our operations and employees, we have the <u>Danone Sustainability Principles & Implementation Note for Danone and Employees</u>. This sets out how we relate to our employees, and the things that are required and expected from all of Danone's entities worldwide. It also commits all employees to implement the DSP in their daily work and interactions with business partners, including raising concerns when they deem it appropriate to do so.

CODE OF BUSINESS CONDUCT — updated in 2022, this code is based on principles derived from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the fundamental conventions of the ILO, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the United Nations Global Compact on human rights, labour rights, the environment and anti-corruption. Employees are required to commit to the Code of Business Conduct as part of their terms of employment and as part of a wider compliance programme across Danone.

<u>CODE OF CONDUCT FOR BUSINESS PARTNERS</u> – updated in 2022, ensures that Danone's business partners comply with applicable laws on bribery and corruption, money laundering, unfair competition and international trade sanctions.

STATEMENT ON FORCED LABOUR- As a member of the CGF, we recognize our role as a responsible business to respect and promote human rights and decent working conditions worldwide. We commit to working together with our peers across the industry and with other key stakeholders to help eradicate forced labour.

<u>GLOBAL EXTERNAL WORKFORCE POLICY</u> - In 2018, Danone issued an internal Global External Workforce Policy, which focused on labour agency workers and prohibiting the payment of recruitment fees by workers.



Danone's human rights due diligence is founded upon a commitment to upholding human rights as established in the following internationally recognized standards and guidelines:

- UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights
- International Labour Organisation (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work
- OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- The ten principles of United Nations Global Compact
- UN Women's Empowerment Principles
- The Children's Rights and Business Principles
- The Global LGBTI Standards for Business
- The FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT)

Where local law and international human rights standards differ, we will follow the higher standard. Where they are in conflict, we will adhere to local law, while seeking ways to respect international human rights to the greatest extent possible.















## **DUE DILIGENCE AND SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT**

To achieve our commitments, and ensure that our standards are upheld, implementing our policies is critical. This begins by identifying and assessing risks across the supply chain and responding swiftly and effectively to any non-conformities identified through our audit processes.

### DLITY OF VIGILANCE

The due diligence we implement in our value chain is governed by the Danone Vigilance Plan. In line with France's 2017 Duty of Vigilance Law, the annual plan seeks to identify risks and prevent severe social and environmental harm that may arise from the Group's activities or the activities of suppliers and subcontractors with which the Group maintains an established commercial relationship,. This includes responsible sourcing and human rights.

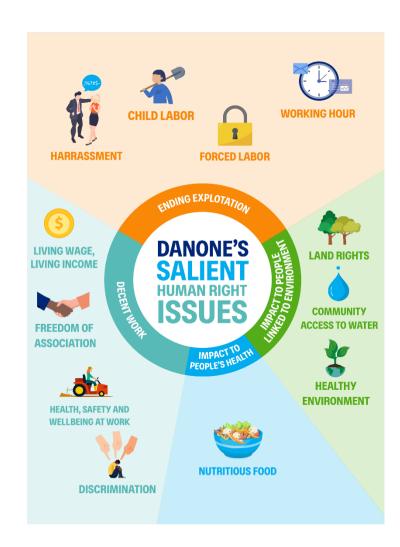
As a result, Danone carries out due diligence on its subsidiaries and mainly first tier and milk suppliers. Looking to the future, we're now also developing due diligence in our extended supply chain through engaging tier 1 suppliers. This involves requesting supply chain transparency, using certifications and in some cases through collaborative projects on the ground.

## **IDENTIFYING RISKS**

To help us identify any prominent risks, we undertake both materiality and risk-mapping exercises.

In 2023, Danone launched a major project to prepare for the application of the EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) in January 2024. The Sustainable Finance team is currently finalizing the double materiality assessment (both financial and impact materiality), as set out by the CSRD.

In addition to the materiality analysis, Danone conducted a salient human rights impact assessment with the support of Shift, the leading center of expertise on the UN guiding principles of business and human rights (UNGPs). In 2023, the assessment was used to develop the Sustainable Sourcing Policy approved by the Global Engagement Committee in October. It will be launched in 2024 after a pilot, replacing the Danone Sustainability Principles for direct suppliers who have a contractual relationship with Danone (except for raw material producers and farmers).



## AGRICUI TURAL SUPPLY CHAIN TRANSPARENCY TABLE

#### **RAW MATERIAL**

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#### Palm Oil

99%

Traceability to mill/plantation level CERTIFICATION: 95% RSPO segregated 2% certified RSPO mass balanced 3% sourced from West Africa

- Partner with Earthworm Foundation to ensure traceability of palm oil.
- Direct and mill-level suppliers available on our website.

#### Soybeans

100%

of soybeans come from areas with little or no risk of deforestation and land conversion

#### Cocoa

**75-80%** 

Certified with one or more programmes (Rainforest Alliance, Organic, Fairtrade, Fair For Life).

#### **Paper and Board**

99%

of paper and board packaging made of recycled fibres or virgin certified (FSC, PEFC, SFI) fibres.

### FORCED LABOUR RISK

To identify the risk for forced labour, we use a number of data sources

#### These include:

- Detailed mapping of supply chains and operations
- External risk indices
- Insights from across the business, from internal subject matter experts to local experts and those in country teams
- Supplier engagement
- Supplier self-assessments and category data
- Audit non-conformities (see page 13)
- Grievances raised on the Danone Ethics line and results from worker engagement surveys
- Insights from external stakeholders, in particular trade unions and civil society, as well as collaborative initiatives with our peers

As part of our saliency assessment in 2022, we looked to understand where vulnerable workers - women, migrant, seasonal/contract and young workers - were more likely to be employed. We know that migrant workers are at higher risk of forced labour, as their movement and recruitment are often poorly regulated and informal. This leaves them more vulnerable to risks such as limited freedom of movement, deception and debt bondage (through the payment of recruitment fees).

We piloted Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) systems in Poland and Brazil in 2022. Danone set up a new governance structure in 2023 under which the Chief Human Resources Officer leads a team dedicated to internal human rights expertise building. The team is tasked with accelerating the roll-out of the Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) roadmap across Danone's operations worldwide.

## WHISTLEBLOWING SYSTEM

Danone has a clear whistleblowing policy as part of its Compliance Framework policy which encourages all employees, anonymously, if necessary, to speak up and raise concerns about any wrongdoing. The whistleblowing statement is also available on Danone.com and on the front page of Danone's whistleblowing system called the Danone Ethics Line.

Since 2017, the Danone Ethics Line has enabled whistleblowers to report suspected human rights and environmental violations. The reporting process was developed in consultation with employee representatives and ensures that whistleblowers are protected.

The Danone Ethics Line was upgraded in 2022. Anyone can access it via the internet or via a phone line and it's available in 52 languages. Suppliers and any other third party can also use the Danone Ethics Line to report their concerns, anonymously if they wish so. All cases are investigated and, where breaches are found, appropriate actions will be taken. Danone has a zero-tolerance approach to attacks on human rights defenders and expects their business partners and their suppliers to do the same.

In 2023, a total of 388 alerts were reported in the human rights category. These originated from 31 countries, versus 273 alerts from 25 countries in 2022. This increase in the number of alerts is mainly due to the global awareness campaign led in 2023 regarding the Danone Ethics Line & How to raise a concern.

Danone continued to refine its scope definition approach during 2022, and reported "human rights" alerts more precisely under the following categories:

- Ending exploitation- prohibiting child and forced labour, prohibiting harassment and abuse, and ensuring reasonable working hours: 149 alerts (mostly harassment related issues)
- **Decent work** granting a decent wage and at least the applicable legal minimum or standard pay, committing to safe and healthy working conditions, granting freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, and ensuring all workers are treated equally with respect and dignity, with a positive culture towards diversity and inclusion: 123 alerts (mostly misconduct and discrimination issues)

In summary, over 86% of alerts received are related to harassment, misconduct and discrimination. All alerts are initially reviewed by the Global Human Resources Compliance and Labor Law Director, who then appoints an independent internal or external investigator. At year end, out of the 388 alerts created in 2023, 309 alerts had been closed, and 79 are still under investigation. Among the 309 alerts closed in 2023, 38% turned out to be substantiated or partially substantiated.

If serious violations are identified, they're handled in collaboration with the Human Rights team in order to determine the appropriate approach and action plans. We are working collaboratively to further strengthen our grievance mechanism for stakeholders beyond employees.

In 2023, ten alerts were raised in the "environmental violations" category, one of which was partially substantiated after investigation and one of which is still open. All alerts received in the "environmental violations" category are initially reviewed by Danone's Compliance Department and, when necessary, sent to the relevant

Danone also has investigation and remediation process in place to manage grievances that come through other channels than Danone Ethics Line, in particular related to raw material supply. Since 2019, Danone has implemented a grievance mechanism for palm oil, with the support of the Earthworm Foundation. Currently this mechanism is also being used for other commodities. Danone is working to adapt the process to track and manage more effectively all commodity alerts.

A dedicated team meets regularly to address any incoming NGO and media alerts. When allegations of non-compliance against producers arise, the Group carries out an investigation with support from internal and external experts, and in particular Tier 1 suppliers. If a low-risk non-conformity has been confirmed. Danone asks the producers to develop an action plan to resolve the non-conformity. In the case of a high-risk non-conformity, which has occurred most often for palm oil, the Group works with its Tier 1 suppliers and can choose to suspend the non-compliant producers until they demonstrate concrete progress towards its commitments. Danone informs all of its active suppliers about the suspension decisions and the suspended producer is only allowed to enter the Group's supply chain after demonstrating progress and, ultimately, with Danone's consent.

## SUSTAINABLE SOURCING

## SUPPORTING OUR FARMERS

As a business, Danone favours local sourcing of raw milk, and we do this from more than 58,000 farms in approximately 16 countries, both directly and indirectly.

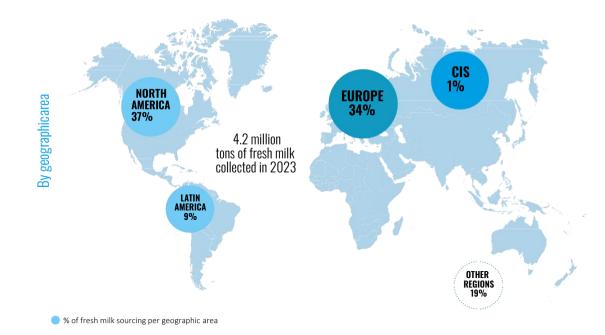
Most of the milk we source comes from family farms, with around 90% of the partner producers owning small family farms with fewer than 25 cows. These farms are primarily located in emerging countries in Africa and Latin America, and supply approximately 14% of Danone's total milk volume.

Danone also works with larger family farms (with herds ranging from a few dozen to thousands of cows), which represent about 1% of the Group's fresh milk suppliers and nearly 74% of milk volumes, the latter being generally collected directly by the Group.

Supporting dairy farmers is a priority for us. At Danone, we support the dairy farmers we work with by providing them with training and technical support to help them transform their farming practices, whilst at the same time ensuring the viability of their business models.

Through the Sustainable Dairy Partnership, Danone continues to work towards a more sustainable dairy industry. This means supporting the prevention of deforestation, the protection of human rights and animal welfare, as well as compliance with local legislation.

Looking to the future, we're also working to empower generations of farmers by developing sustainable relationships and supporting them in the transition of their practices via funding and training. Our Regenerative Agriculture Social Survey is aimed at assessing farmers and workers livelihoods and working conditions in order to develop appropriate and enhanced human rights due diligence.





# RESPECT PROGRAM FOR RESPONSIBLE SOURCING WITH TIFR 1 SUPPLIERS

Danone also implements responsible sourcing due diligence towards its Tier 1 suppliers of other materials, i.e., processed raw materials such as fruit preparations and powdered milk, packaging, production machinery, transport and other services. We do this through our RESPECT program.

Since 2017, Danone has moved the RESPECT program towards a more comprehensive due diligence approach and stepped up its human rights requirements. Such an approach endorses the principles enshrined in the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGP). The RESPECT program streamlines evaluation procedures for Tier 1 suppliers and is structured on three main pillars:

- 1. Danone requires in scope Tier 1 suppliers to complete a self-assessment questionnaire. The purpose of this is to evaluate their sustainability performance. As part of this process, they must register on the Sedex (Supplier Ethical Data Exchange) platform (direct procurement categories, as well as third party manufacturers, and producers of promotional items), or the Ecovadis platform (indirect procurement categories). As a result, a scorecard is generated. Both scorecards evaluate labour standards, health and safety, and environment and business ethics dimensions. At the end of 2023, 3,511 supplier entities were registered on the Sedex or Ecovadis platform compared to 3,189 in 2022, and 90% had completed the Sedex self-assessment or obtained an Ecovadis scorecard. These 3,511 entities represent 2,759 suppliers.
- 2. Danone identifies high risk or high priority suppliers that should undergo an onsite assessment (audit). Since 2020, we've used a risk analysis approach that combines risks and spend levels for suppliers of our operating units and global categories. We have developed an in-house human rights risk evaluation for suppliers based on:
  - (i) the inherent country social risk index as identified by Sedex risk tool;
  - (ii) the spend level; and
  - (iii) the purchase category risk.
- 3. Based on its analysis, the RESPECT team worked with purchasing departments around the world to co-develop the 2023 audit plan, selecting 84 high risk or high priority sites. Among them, 65 sites have completed an on-site or virtual assessment, in accordance with the Sedex Members Ethical Trade Audit (SMETA) protocol or the Sedex Virtual Audit (SVA) protocol. As a result, in 2023, Danone had access to 541 SMETA audits carried out on its suppliers, either by the Group itself or by its peers.

4. Once an audit is conducted, it's our goal to establish regular dialogue with our Tier 1 suppliers. This dialogue puts a focus on their responsible business practices, and monitoring the delivery of critical non-conformances identified by audits - including when audits of shared suppliers are conducted by peer companies. In order to increase the robustness of the supplier remediation plans, the RESPECT team has dedicated resources located in Asia and Latin America. They support suppliers in developing their corrective action plans by providing expert advice, resources and regular engagements, the chief aim being to close audits according to the SMETA methodology.

# RESPONSIBLE SOURCING IN THE EXTENDED SUPPLY CHAIN: DUE DILIGENCE RELATED TO RAW MATERIALS SOURCING

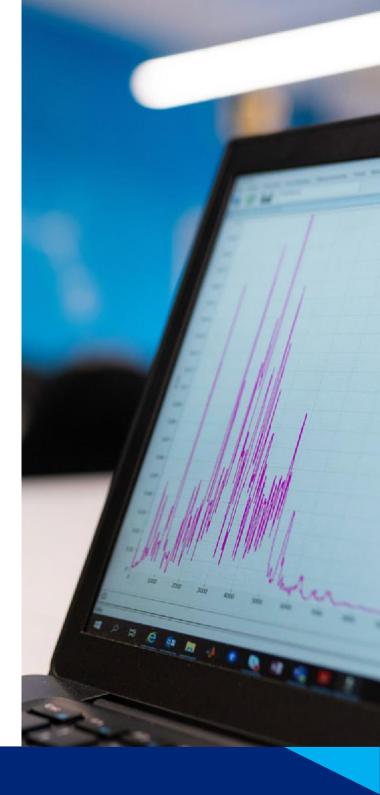
Building on the work we have already done towards gaining greater transparency across our full supply chain, Danone is mitigating risks and preventing serious human rights violations beyond our tier 1 suppliers in three main ways:

- Engaging with Tier 1 suppliers and in some cases traders to increase our knowledge of their supply chains up to upstream producers.
- Using certifications such as RSPO for palm oil; Rainforest Alliance (UTZ),
  Organic, Fair Trade, or Fair For Life for cocoa and for Danone North America's
  coffee; FSC, PEFC and SFI for paper; Bonsucro and Organic for cane sugar, and
  RTRS or Proterra for soy.
- Leading or supporting collaborative impact projects on the ground to help producers address environmental and labour issues in a holistic manner. As an example, a vanilla plantation project in Madagascar supported by the Livelihoods Fund for Family Farming involves 3,000 family farms. The aim is to develop solutions that improve the quality and traceability of vanilla production, preserve biodiversity and boost food security for farmers.

# TRACKING AND ASSESSING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SUPPLIER PROGRAMS

Danone tracks its RESPECT program using the following three indicators:

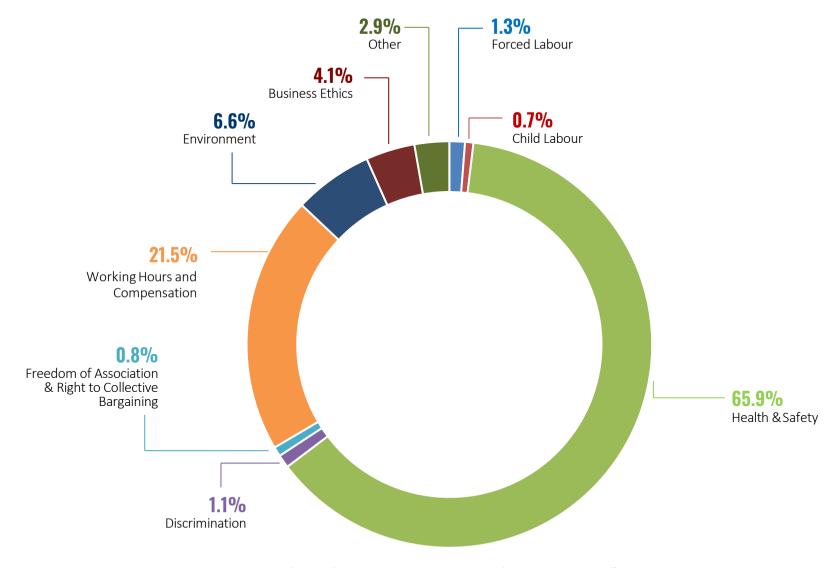
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	RESULT
PERCENTAGE OF THE EXPENDITURE COVERED BY THE RESPECT PROGRAM	69% of Danone's expenditure was covered by the sustainable sourcing program, excluding raw milk, real estate, and tax services in 2023.
ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN COMPLETION	• 77% of SMETA audits planned were completed in 2023.
AUDIT CLOSURE RATE	<ul> <li>84% of audits that identified critical non-conformities (being commissioned by Danone or by peers on common suppliers) have been closed in the expected timeframe. Audits that have not been closed continue to be monitored.</li> </ul>



RESPECT team, including for their managers.

## BREAKDOWN OF CRITICAL NON-CONFORMITIES IDENTIFIED

Globally, we conducted an analysis on the 452 critical non-conformities identified through the SMETA audits conducted in 2023 (or those conducted using a similar methodology) and work with the suppliers to ensure they are resolved and remedied. All the critical non-conformities reported here have either been resolved or are being remedied with the suppliers.



Source: Danone's Universal Registration Document, page 221: URDdanone2023interactive.pdf

# **WORKING COLLABORATIVELY**

To positively change the way food is grown, produced, marketed, distributed, sold and consumed, we need to create solutions collectively with others, and learn from each other's knowledge and expertise.

In order to do this, we're building on decades of partnership experience, and working hand-in-hand with Danone employees, farmers, suppliers, retailers, consumers and partners, as well as civil society, governments and public health professionals.

We support a level playing field for corporate accountability and believe this can drive better outcomes for people and the planet across global value chains. Since 2020, we, together with our peers, have supported the shaping of an EU legislative proposal on mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence. In April 2024, the European Parliament adopted the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive. The aim of this Directive is to foster sustainable and responsible corporate behaviour and to anchor human rights and environmental considerations in companies' operations and corporate governance. The new rules will ensure that businesses address adverse impacts of their actions, including in their value chains inside and outside Europe.



### CGF HUMAN RIGHTS COALITION

In 2016, Danone joined the CGF's collective effort to eradicate forced labour from its global supply chain. To this end, in 2017 we incorporated the three Priority Industry Principles set by the CGF into our Fundamental Social Principles. In 2018, we formalised this commitment in our statement on forced labour.

Together with 28 peer members of the CGF's 'Human Rights Coalition – Working to end forced labour', we pledged to develop and implement Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) systems that focus on forced labour in our operations. Our goal is to achieve 100% coverage by 2025, including third-party contractors and regular/on-going agency workers.

In 2021 the coalition launched the <u>Maturity Journey Framework</u> for Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) Systems Focused on Forced Labour in Own Operations. Danone participated in the core group which drafted the HRDD Maturity Journey Framework, ensuring alignment with the AIM Progress Maturity Journey Framework. The Coalition is supported by the Fair Labor Association (FLA) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

In 2022, we piloted the first steps of the Coalition due diligence framework in our Poland and Brazil Business Units. In these locations, local cross function al task forces were selected (Human Resources, Procurement, and Legal /Compliance) and trained by the FLA to increase their capabilities. They mapped the business units' workforce and ran the human rights self-assessment questionnaire on the highest risk categories, i.e. external workers. The findings did not identify significant violations, but did show the need to

reinforce policies and processes, and to strengthen understanding and awareness through education and communication. This will be addressed through local follow up Action Plans.







## CGF COALITION FOCUS ARFAS:

- HRDD systems focused on forced labour in CGF Members' own operations
- Implementation of HRDD systems in palm oil supply chains in Malavsia
- Supporting the development of responsible recruitment markets through capacity building and government advocacy

## THE CGF THREE PRIORITY INDUSTRY PRINCIPLES:









In 2022, we continued our contribution to the Business for Inclusive Growth Coalition, which aims to scale up actions on economic inclusion, particularly with regards to human rights across the value chains. As of 2024, this coalition has been merged with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

# **PARTNERSHIPS & COMMITMENTS**

By engaging in partnerships and making specific public commitments, Danone is working with its partners towards more responsible practices.



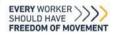
We're also members of a forum AIM-PROGRESS where we collaborate to share best practice around responsible sourcing and human rights amongst other Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) manufacturers and peers.

#### Q Pre-2016

- Member of UN Global Compact since 2003
- RESPECT programme supplier compliance with social principles launched 2005
- Programme expanded to include environmental and ethics principles in 2009

#### Q 2017

We incorporated the three priorities set by the CGF into our Fundamental Social Principles







#### 2019

- We also introduced our third RESPECT KPI: audit closure
- Collaborated with OECD in the launch of the Business for Inclusive Growth coalition





#### 2021

 Developed the social pillar survey of Danone's Regenerative Agriculture Framework with the support of WWF and SAI Platform



#### 2016

Joined the Consumer Goods Forum's collective effort to eradicate forced labour from its global supply chain



#### 2018

- Published our statement on Forced Labour
- Launched Global External Workforce Policy



#### 2020

- Introduced expert support to help suppliers develop corrective action plans for social audits with non-conformities
- Pledged to develop Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) focused on Forced Labour in our own operations



#### 2022

Joined the 100+ companies, investors, business associations and initiatives releasing a joint statement urging the EU to swiftly adopt the Due Diligence Directive Proposal





# IN THIS TOGETHER: FOSTERING DECENT WORK AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH THROUGH OUR SOCIAL INNOVATION ENTITIES

## DANONF FCOSYSTEM

In 1972, Danone's CEO at the time, Antoine Riboud, announced that it was time for the company to make a major investment in its local 'ecosystems'. He said:

'IT'S IN A COMPANY'S BEST INTERESTS TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF ITS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT, MEANING ITS SUPPLIERS, ITS EMPLOYEES, ITS CUSTOMERS OR THE PLACES WHERE IT OPERATES. THAT'S WHAT I CALL ITS ECOSYSTEM.'

In light of this speech and following the 2008 financial crisis which hit the global economy and impacted unemployment rates worldwide, Danone shareholders agreed to invest €100 million of the company's 2009 profits into the newly created Danone Ecosystem.

Together with Danone employees and local partners, Danone Ecosystem creates fresh and innovative business models. Business models that strengthen inclusion and environmental sustainability, provide organisational know-how, technical expertise, and financing support. Since 2009, Danone Ecosystem has co-created 100+ projects, with 89 Non-Profit Organizations as partners, covering the following topics:

- 1. Regenerative agriculture
- 2. Inclusive recycling
- 3. Healthy food and diet

Through those 100+ projects, Danone Ecosystem aims to positively impact the health of the planet and its people:

- 76,000 professionals (more than half of whom are women) working in Danone's ecosystems have been empowered through various initiatives to boost their employability, support their social inclusion, and help secure their revenues. As a starting point, priority was given to the most vulnerable: family farmers, wastepickers, caregivers and street vendors.
- 5.5M people's lives have been impacted positively within local communities since the inception of the Danone Ecosystem. (Based on the 2022 Danone Ecosystem annual report)
- At the end of 2023, Danone Ecosystem was supporting 32 active projects across Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America.

# DANONE COSYSTEM

To learn more about Danone Ecosystem impact and the models they develop visit <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/danone-ecosystem-fund">https://www.linkedin.com/company/danone-ecosystem-fund</a>



## FRF7NA

The Frezna project is a Danone Ecosystem initiative which aims to develop a sustainable farm model to produce strawberries. It does so by ensuring robust income for the farms while deploying sustainable agricultural practices and ensuring social requirements are met.

To date (2023), the project has helped to empower over 142 strawberry farmers and their ecosystems by:

- (1) Ensuring farmers have access to social security benefits
- (2) Ensuring 100% of field workers have access to social security benefits and medical visits
- (3) Guiding farmers on how to limit the environmental impact of strawberry farming
- (4) Training farmers on finance and entrepreneurial skills to improve their farming model therefore securing their revenues and livelihoods

Frezna is a cross-sector initiative co-created along with Danone Ecosystem, DIRA, GIZ, Messem, and DanTrade.

### INCLUSIVE RECYCLING INDONESIA

The "Inclusive Recycling Indonesia" project Indonesia (IRI) aims to tackle the problem of packaging waste in Indonesia by helping recycling circuits to organize themselves, and by supporting their main stakeholders. To achieve this goal, IRI empowered 2,500+ waste management's front-line workers so they can have a better livelihood, access to training and better working conditions. As a result:

- 65% of waste pickers report actively being able to save money, helping to provide higher education for their children
- 75% of them declare benefiting from new social recognition by the population thanks to uniforms provided by the project
- All waste pickers must undergo training to prevent child labour. This is important given that child labour is prevalent in Indonesia, with children working to support their families.

IRI is a cross sector initiative co-created with Danone Ecosystem, Danone-AQUA, Veolia, and YPCII.





# **GOVERNANCE**

At Danone, governance is not solely about monitoring and regulating behaviour. We hold ourselves to the highest standards and look to align with internationally recognised frameworks such as the United Nations Global Compact and B Corp™.

We have a series of policies and governance processes that underpin our efforts to respect internationally recognised human rights principles and guidance.

## **BOARD AND CSR COMMITTEE**

The Board determines the strategic orientations of Danone's activity and ensures their implementation. Furthermore, it seeks to promote and support the creation of long-term value, while taking into account the social and environmental challenges of Danone's activities.

A Board Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) committee is in place. This committee oversees the strategic priorities and associated medium/long term objectives in the social, societal and environmental fields (Danone Impact Journey). Under our 'People and Communities' pillar, in 2022 their meetings included corporate culture, training and inclusion, and updates on human rights, including the human rights policy review.

An update on the progress of the "human rights" pillar of the duty of care plan was presented to the Board of Directors' CSR Committee in November 2023, including the upcoming Sustainable Sourcing Policy. This policy was approved by the Global Engagement Committee in October 2023, and will be piloted before publication and launch in 2024.

## SOCIÉTÉ À MISSION

In June 2020, and with the support of more than 99% of shareholders Danone became the first publicly listed company to adopt the French 'Société à Mission' status. A 'Société à Mission' is defined as a company whose objectives in the social, societal and environmental fields are aligned with its purpose, and set out in its by-laws.

The same year saw us select four of our 2030 Company Goals as our Mission Objectives and integrate them into our by-laws. The Mission Objective that relates to human rights is:

# 'FOSTER INCLUSIVE GROWTH BY ENSURING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE COMPANY, SUPPORTING THE MOST VULNERABLE PARTNERS IN ITS ECOSYSTEM, AND DEVELOPING EVERYDAY PRODUCTS ACCESSIBLE TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE'.

The Mission Committee monitors our progress toward these objectives by:

- Assessing the effectiveness of the actions carried out by Danone within the context of the roadmap defined by the Company to accomplish the mission
- Examining the relevance of the actions and key performance indicators (KPIs) of the roadmap to accomplishing the mission, in particular with regard to their impact on various stakeholders and changes in the Company's ecosystem
- Presenting an annual report, attached to the management report submitted to the Shareholders' Meeting, on the monitoring of the Company's execution of social and environmental objectives
- Using an independent third party, from which it hears at least once a year.

In 2022, we progressed in our Société à Mission journey by setting measurable KPIs to 2025, as well as annual trajectories to ensure consistent progress. This process was overseen by the Mission Committee. The 2025 KPIs are reflected in the Danone Impact Journey.

## **EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP**

In 2022, Danone appointed its Chief Sustainability and Strategic Business Development Officer, Henri Bruxelles. He is tasked with leading our sustainability agenda and putting this at the heart of Danone's business delivery and performance, as a key driver of our competitiveness. Under his leadership, two Senior Vice Presidents have been appointed in 2023 to lead the sustainability agenda: a SVP Sustainability Transformation, in charge of landing all programs supporting the Danone Impact Journey within our geographies, functions and categories and a SVP Sustainability Strategy & Partnerships is in charge of sustainability strategy, co-funding & partnerships.

Internal governance at global & country levels is being set up to drive, monitor and make decisions on the roll-out of the Danone Impact Journey, including human rights as part of our priorities in this journey.



## DANONE WAY

We continue to monitor the human rights performance of our subsidiaries through our Danone Way programme. It's how we ensure that all entities, at all levels, progress toward our goals. This involves tracking and supporting sustainability performance through a set of qualitative practices. Reliability is reinforced by external audits, which are performed by an independent third party.

## **TRAINING & ENGAGEMENT**

The Danone dedicated e-learning training program on human rights and the fight against forced labour is available on the Group training platform for the Procurement, Human Resources and General Secretary functions.

Employee engagement on human rights was further strengthened in 2022 with the launch of Human Rights Community Networking Calls. Gathering the local Human Rights Champions (Human Resources), RESPECT Champions, and local Sustainability Managers, these quarterly calls enable information and best practice sharing, and aim to progressively build local awareness and capabilities.

Our RESPECT Champions are local representatives who ensure that the RESPECT program is embedded and rolled out at a local level. Ultimately, they play a vital role in the implementation of our policies among our suppliers. Danone trains its RESPECT champions and buyers on the RESPECT program, ensuring that they're aware of the risks related to forced labour and the CGF's three priorities.

The RESPECT team developed a 4-module e-learning course covering the fundamentals of the program, which was included in the learning journey for the procurement team. In 2023, 98 buyers, champions or purchasing managers completed at least one module and close to 2/3rd of them the whole course. The RESPECT e-learning course complements the training module on human rights and forced labour already offered online. At the end of 2023, more than 5,750 Danone employees had completed the human rights and forced labour training, including 100% of the Canadian employees approving budget.

In addition, following the publication of Danone's Human Rights Policy in 2022, a global target has been set for 100% of Danoners to be trained on the policy by 2025. This is incorporated into the Danone Impact Journey. The training entitled 'Sustainability and Human Rights fundamentals' will be deployed from 2024 onwards.



# **LOOKING AHEAD**

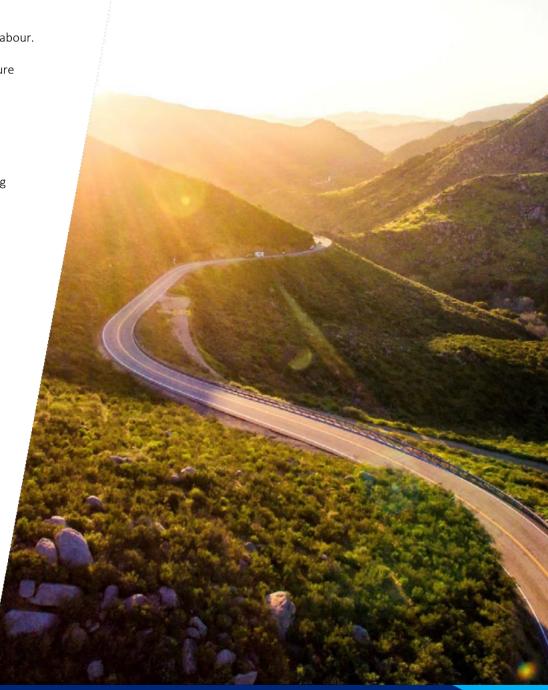
At Danone, we're committed to protecting human rights in our value chain and combating forced labour.

We acknowledge that while progress has been made, there's still much to be done in order to ensure that we meet our goal of supporting thriving communities- including fostering an inclusive and prosperous ecosystem, upholding human rights, and pursuing social progress.

We will continue this important work throughout 2024, focusing on the following action areas:

- We recognize the importance of continued training and development for all Danone employees and will build deployment plans for both digitally connected and manufacturing employees.
  - Specifically in Canada, there will be further implementation of the existing human rights and forced labour e-learning training
- During 2024 we will develop and launch the Danone Sustainable Sourcing Policy.
   Building upon the Danone Sustainability Principles, it will replace them in our relationship with suppliers, driving continuous improvement in implementing sustainability and human rights due diligence.
- In parallel, we will strengthen the RESPECT program aimed at monitoring suppliers' sustainability performance and the implementation of the policy.

We continue to engage with our stakeholders on this important topic to improve upon our measures.



THIS STATEMENT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH BILL S-211, AN ACT TO ENACT THE FIGHTING AGAINST FORCED LABOUR AND CHILD LABOUR IN SUPPLY CHAINS ACT AND TO AMEND THE CUSTOMS TARIFF. IT OUTLINES THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE DANONE COMPANY AND ITS CANADIAN BUSINESSES DURING 2023-24 TO PREVENT FORCED LABOUR AND CHILD LABOUR ACROSS OUR BUSINESS AND SUPPLY CHAIN.

# **CONTACTS**

If you have any comments or queries, please contact:

DANONE CANADA Media Relations: mediarelations@danone.com

Danone's in-scope Canadian businesses are: Danone Inc. and Nutricia North America Inc.

Both Danone Inc, and Nutricia North America, Inc.'s financial year end runs from 1st January – 31st December



In accordance with the requirements of the Act, and in particular section 11 thereof, I attest that I have reviewed the information contained in the report for the entity or entities listed above. Based on my knowledge, and having exercised reasonable diligence, I attest that the information in the report is true, accurate and complete in all material respects for the purposes of the Act, for the reporting year listed above.

By:
Pascal Lachance
Director Sustainability, Danone Inc.
May 31, 2024

taxoffachome

I have the authority to bind Danone Inc. and Nutricia North America, Inc.