*Thanks for your invitation to respond to labour rights allegations in the recent Oxfam report. As an international company with global supply chains, the ALDI SOUTH Group is aware of its responsibility to respect human rights. We are certain that long-term business success can only be ensured if human rights are acknowledged and respected, protected and fulfilled.*

*Over the past 12 months, we have continued to develop our responsible sourcing strategy to mitigate the adverse impact of our business activity on human rights. We are very pleased that Oxfam has acknowledged our significant progress and increased transparency on our human rights approach, and that this has been reflected in our increased score in the 2019 Oxfam Supermarket Scorecard.*

*As part of our responsible sourcing strategy, we have published our*[*Human Rights Policy*](https://cr.aldisouthgroup.com/sites/default/files/downloads/2018_EN_%20ALDI%20SOUTH%20Group%20Human%20Rights%20Policy%20Statement_final_0.pdf)*and the results of our human rights risk assessment of our food and agriculture supply chains. We also shared details of our beyond audit approach, acknowledged issues faced by smallholder farmers and women, and information about our collaboration and project activities in the area of sustainability.*

*We are aware of the human rights challenges within agricultural supply chains, and that supermarkets like ALDI can contribute to improving the situation. We are already working on different approaches in our own supply chains and by engaging with other stakeholders.*

*For example, we support the work of the World Banana Forum for price transparency and living wages in banana production and we participate in the PRO PLANTEURS project to support 20,000 cocoa farmers and their families to achieve the sustainable cultivation of cocoa and improved living conditions. We are also aware of the particular human rights challenges in the production of tea. As a first measure to address these, a proportion of our tea productions are either UTZ/Rainforest Alliance, Fairtrade or Organic certified and we are working to increase the percentage of certified tea available to our customers.*

*We consider this to be an important first step in improving social compliance at production sites but we are aware that they may not always identify hidden issues such as forced labour, discrimination or harassment. We therefore commit to adopt an approach to ethical trade that goes beyond compliance and does not rely solely on certification, complementing our approach with additional activity such as our own on-site visits, supplier and producer communication and training, participation in multi-stakeholder initiatives, capacity building and projects on the ground. Introducing permanent improvements to working conditions requires a collaborative approach to ethical trade between ALDI SOUTH and our suppliers.*

*Over the next five years, we intend to further address issues within our supply chains via a number of measures, including a review of policies and processes, traceability and supply chain mapping, social auditing and certification, further integration of CR criteria into the buying process, participation in multi-stakeholder initiatives and capacity building measures.*

*Further details can be found on our*[*Human Rights webpage*](https://cr.aldisouthgroup.com/en/cr-portal/simply-responsible/human-rights)*and international*[*Human Rights Policy statement*](https://cr.aldisouthgroup.com/sites/default/files/downloads/2018_EN_%20ALDI%20SOUTH%20Group%20Human%20Rights%20Policy%20Statement.pdf)*.*

*The ALDI SOUTH Group shares the core values behind Oxfam’s efforts and we continue to have constructive dialogue with Oxfam.*