



MERCY FOR
ANIMALS



INTERNATIONAL CAGE-FREE EQUITY INDEX



Most laying hens worldwide are confined to tiny, crowded cages without room to even spread their wings. Each hen suffers, on average, an estimated [11,207 hours of pain](#) in her shortened life, from bone injuries and other ailments to not having access to a nest.



Cage confinement of laying hens is also associated with [significantly higher rates of salmonella](#), raising serious food safety concerns for consumers.

As a global issue, companies have the responsibility of banning the cruel confinement of hens from their supply chains. However, when cage-free egg commitments don't span the globe, the **egg industry displaces animal cruelty by [exporting cages](#) from the global North to the global South...**

...even though consumers in the global South **also reject animal cruelty**, such as the cruel caging of hens.¹



96.3%
Brazil



96.7%
Chile



72.3%
China



71.9%
India



73.3%
Malaysia



77.9%
Nigeria



93.6%
Pakistan



77.1%
Philippines



73.4%
Sudan



77.7%
Thailand

The bad news?

Some companies **continue to remain silent on cage-free egg standards** for hens and consumers in certain parts of the world, such as the global South. As of July 31, 2023, these companies have not yet published a comprehensive global cage-free egg commitment with a clear time frame:



The good news?

Many companies have **committed to ending the use of cages in their egg supply chains globally**, as concerns for animal welfare and food safety do not end at the borders of global North countries.



The better news?

Transparent companies with cage-free pledges are **reporting global progress** on their shifts away from cages because their customers, their investors, and the public deserve transparency.



The even better news?

Leading companies are **reporting their global cage-free egg progress for all their regions of operation**, as regional transparency is just as crucial in the global South as it is in the global North. These companies are equitably transparent:





The International Cage-Free Equity Index is a project by Mercy
For Animals in close partnership with:

animal
EQUALITY

ANIMAL
FRIENDS
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Company categorizations reflect published commitments and progress reporting as of July 31, 2023. Some franchisee(s) or licensee(s) have cage-free egg commitments that cover parts, but not all, of operations in certain countries. Images are representative of typical factory farm conditions.

¹ In a [study](#) of consumer attitudes toward hen welfare around the world, most respondents in surveyed countries agreed that chickens used for eggs should not suffer.