



CAGE-FREE TRACKER

2023 EDITION

 Latam



FOREWORD

Every year, millions of eggs are laid by hens confined in conventional battery cages, a cruel production system that has been banned in many countries worldwide, including the European Union, Canada, New Zealand, and nine states in the US.

Battery cages deprive hens from performing out their natural instincts and behaviors, forcing each hen to live in a space smaller than an A4 sheet of paper. These curious animals cannot walk freely, stretch their wings completely, or perform other natural behaviors, leaving them vulnerable to severe physical and psychological distress. It's alarming to know that this suffering still prevails globally.

Despite the harsh realities of the egg industry in Latin America, we at Sinergia Animal are determined to stay optimistic about the future. It's encouraging to see that, in recent years, hundreds of food companies--from small local businesses to large multinationals--have publicly committed to moving away from battery cages and embracing cage-free systems across their supply chains within a specific timeframe. These commitments can alleviate the suffering of millions of hens.

However, we recognize that committing is just the beginning. More is needed for companies to have a policy in place: they must take actionable steps and report their progress to ensure that their commitments are fulfilled. This is why we launched our Cage-Free Tracker, which aims to provide transparency and recognition for companies making progress across Latin America.

The Cage-Free Tracker 2023 highlights a notable improvement in reporting compared to 2022—with 50.43% of the contacted companies reporting their efforts, up from 35.5%. Of all countries, Argentina presented a large number of reporting companies (73.3% of the total surveyed), while only 37.7% of contacted multinational corporations operating in Latin America reported. The report also emphasizes the need for more transparency, as many companies did not respond or report progress at all.

This survey also provides valuable insights into the advances of companies in switching to cage-free: the majority of them fall into the 80–100% range of transition, with notable examples like Barilla leading the way with a 100% cage-free supply chain.

By highlighting the progress of hundreds of companies and holding accountable the ones opting to ignore the issue, we can continue to raise awareness and pressure other companies to commit to leaving these cruel practices out of their production chains, ultimately freeing hens from cages across Latin America.



Romina Viscarret

Corporate Enforcement Manager - Latam

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CAGE-FREE MOVEMENT IN LATAM

Egg production in [Latin America has grown](#) in the last few years. Sadly, the market expansion was not followed by an improvement in animal welfare: over [90%](#) of egg-laying hens still spend their lives in conventional battery cages. This high percentage shows how many animals could be impacted if new and better practices were implemented in the egg industry.

In recent years, cage-free egg production in Latam has gained momentum, with many companies from various sectors—including hospitality, retail, restaurants, and consumer packaged goods—in Argentina, Colombia, and Chile choosing to source cage-free eggs.



In 2022, the efforts of Sinergia Animal and other NGOs helped to achieve 13 commitments in Latin America:



HOTEL VILAR AMÉRICA

Hotel Vilar América is a hotel chain located in Colombia that offers accommodation, event spaces, and dining services.



BUFFALO WAFFLES

A food company specializing in waffles in Chile, with several locations nationwide.



CENCOSUD (COLOMBIA)

Big retail company that operates supermarkets in Colombia.



ALMACÉN DE PIZZAS

Multinational pizza company committed to using cage-free eggs in their locations in Argentina, Uruguay, Perú, and Paraguay.



PRODUCTOS LA LOCURA

Big food company with multiple locations around Colombia, mainly focused on baked goods.



CACHAFAZ

One of Argentina's most significant food companies, with products sold in every supermarket and the international market.



EL TRIGAL

Food company that focuses on wheat-based products in Uruguay.



GELATO HELADERÍA (PARK WAY)

An ice-cream chain store in Colombia, committed to using cage-free eggs in their location in Park Way.



FRUTOS DE PAZ (PARK WAY)

A store focused on selling various natural and local products in Colombia, committed to using cage-free eggs in their location in Park Way.



TEMPLO DEL TÉ

A tea store that sells several pastries in Colombia, committed to using cage-free eggs in Park Way.



MYRIAM CAMHI

Bakery in Colombia that sells products in several locations around the country.



MORITZ EIS

Ice cream store with several locations around Chile.



ACURIO RESTAURANTES

A restaurant group based in Peru that operates several brands.

As these companies pave the way toward a future without cages, the impact will grow as others follow suit.

We must act decisively to push companies in Latam to embrace a cage-free system. By stepping up our efforts and demanding greater responsibility, we can send a clear message that animal welfare and food safety are non-negotiable. Collaboration between producers, retailers, and consumers must take a more assertive approach, leaving no room for doubt or half-hearted commitments. It's time to pressure these companies relentlessly, urging them to prioritize more ethical and sustainable practices and hold them accountable for their actions.

WHAT IS CAGE-FREE?

Cage-free systems are becoming increasingly popular as an alternative to the inhumane practice of battery cages that dominate commercial egg production in many countries of the Global South. Hundreds of millions of hens used in commercial egg production are kept in battery cages their entire lives, which is considered one of the cruelest practices of animal agriculture.

Battery cages are cramped, providing each hen with living space smaller than an A4 sheet of paper. The hens cannot walk freely, stretch completely, or flap their wings. They are social animals, but this confinement means they cannot socialize in healthy ways, which hinders them from carrying out their most basic behaviors and forces them to live miserable lives.

Cage-free systems have the potential to reduce animal suffering significantly. In cage-free systems, hens live in sheds with or without access to outside areas, but they have access to enriched areas with, for example, straw to graze, and perches to climb.



THE REALITY OF BATTERY CAGES



LACK OF SPACE

Up to 12 birds can be crowded into a small cage. This usually means that each bird has less space than an A4-sized sheet of paper to live in.



FRUSTRATION

They cannot engage in natural behaviors such as spreading their wings, walking freely, or nesting. This constantly frustrates them.



PAIN

Caged hens have an increased risk of bone diseases such as osteoporosis, making them prone to painful fractures. They have to stand on a metal grate that hurts their feet.



UNSANITARY CONDITIONS

Sometimes, dead hens are left to rot for days, forcing the surviving birds to live with decomposing bodies at their feet. They are forced to live above the heaps of their feces that accumulate beneath the cages.



PUBLIC HEALTH

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has concluded that cage systems have a higher prevalence of Salmonella compared to cage-free systems.

WHAT IS A CAGE-FREE POLICY?

A growing number of companies have pledged to ditch the cruel battery-cage system that has long been used in the egg industry. This significant shift away from battery cages has been made by companies ranging from local businesses to multinational corporations, all of whom have publicly committed to transitioning to cage-free supply chains within a specific timeframe.





The cage-free policy commitment of these companies is vital, as it represents one of the most powerful ways to create meaningful change for millions of animals. By pledging to eliminate all use of cages in their supply chain, these companies are taking a significant step towards reducing the intense suffering of millions of hens who have long been subjected to one of the worst forms of confinement in animal agriculture. This shift towards cage-free systems also has the potential to influence higher welfare standards throughout the industry, thereby creating a ripple effect of positive change.

However, simply having a policy is not enough. For these commitments to have a meaningful impact, actionable changes and progress tracking are necessary to ensure they are fulfilled. Transparency and recognition of the advancements made by companies toward ending the use of cages throughout their supply chains are crucial, as they hold companies accountable for bringing real changes.



1

Company uses eggs in their products, or supermarket sells eggs.



2

A. Company publishes a cage-free commitment pledging to only use or sell eggs from cage-free farms.

B. When a company does not publish a policy, NGOs like Sinergia Animal work with dialogue and pressure to ask them for a commitment.



3

Company starts implementing and moves towards 100% cage-free eggs by a set deadline.

HOW THE SURVEY WAS MADE



In the fourth edition of the Cage-Free Tracker for Latin America, Sinergia Animal conducted a survey to gather information on the progress of 115 companies across Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Peru, Colombia, and Ecuador in transitioning to sourcing cage-free eggs on a national level. For companies that have global policies, we asked them to report numbers specifically for Latin America.

The methods used to collect the companies' progress included our own tailored questionnaire, the [WelfareProgress platform](#), or verifying public information on the company's own websites and reports. This process took five months to complete, during which Sinergia Animal contacted all 115 companies in question, collaborating with other NGOs and sharing reports where possible.

THE METHODS USED TO MONITOR THE COMPANIES' PROGRESS INCLUDED:



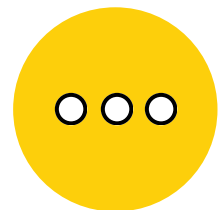
QUESTIONNAIRE
Our own tailored questionnaire



COMPANY'S WEBSITE OR REPORT
Verifying public information on the company's own websites



WELFAREPROGRESS PLATFORM
Reports on the [WelfareProgress platform](#)



OTHER
NGOs shared reports

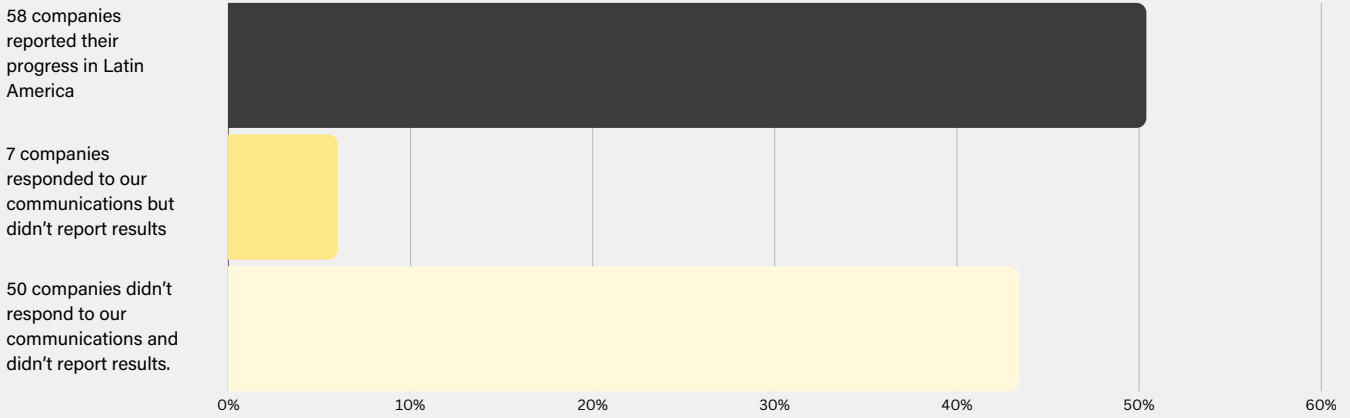
2023 SURVEY FINDINGS



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Multinational engagement:** Of 45 multinational companies contacted, 17 (37.7%) reported their progress, illustrating a growing engagement with transparency among global corporations. However, those that reported are still at very low transition levels.
 - **Progress by country:** Notable reporting rates were observed in specific countries: in Argentina, 11 companies reported (73.3% of the total surveyed), in Colombia 16 (51.6%), in Ecuador 2 (100%), in Peru 5 (100%), and in Uruguay 1 (100%). In Chile only 6 (37.5%) reported, representing the lowest percentage.
 - **Diverse reporting channels:** Companies reported progress through various channels, including Sinergia Animal's questionnaire (74.13%), and companies' public websites mentioning Latin America data (17.24%). WelfareProgress, another avenue for reporting, was utilized by three companies (5.17%). Of the companies mentioned, 3.44% didn't report directly to us, but their information was gathered through the collaboration of other NGOs—the report from Moritz Eis was shared by Vegetarianos Hoy, and ARBA Peru shared the report from Selina Peru.
 - **Companies that responded but didn't report progress by region/country:** Alsea and Krispy Kreme (multinational companies) and Altiplánico (Chile). In Colombia, the companies that didn't report but responded to our emails or other communications are Bioparque, Grupo Iga, Mesofoods, and Productos La Locura.
 - **Companies that didn't respond and didn't report progress by region/country:** A majority (57.7%) of multinational companies (Associated British Foods, Best Western Hotel Group, Bimbo, and others) didn't respond or report progress. In Argentina, 26.7% of the companies surveyed, including Carrefour and Tostado Café Club, didn't respond or report. In Chile, this percentage was 56.25% (including Buffalo Waffles and Carl's Jr.) and in Colombia, 35.5% (including Carnival Corporation and Colombina).
- Companies that are moving backwards: Freddo has announced their decision to drop the cage-free commitment they made in 2018, and Nutresa has decided to revoke the commitment made in 2017.
- **Varied transition levels:** Transition levels to cage-free eggs varied, but 48.21% of reporting companies indicated a transition rate between 80% and 100%, reflecting a positive trend toward cage-free egg implementation.
 - **Egg usage breakdown:** In terms of transitioning to cage-free egg usage, companies in Latin America exhibit varying degrees of progress. Regarding whole shell eggs, approximately 73.3% of reporting companies have achieved a transition rate between 80% and 100%, while 20% are in the lower range of 0%–19%. When it comes to processed eggs, 53.84% are within the 0%–19% range, showing much room for improvement. As for eggs used as ingredients, 70.58% of companies have made substantial progress, falling within the 80%–100% transition range, demonstrating a positive shift towards cage-free sourcing.

OVERALL PARTICIPATION AND TRANSITION



Out of the total number of 115 companies that were contacted, 58 companies (50.43%) reported their progress. However, it is important to note that the information companies provide is sometimes incomplete, with some companies answering only part of the questionnaire or stating they don't possess all the requested data.

115 companies contacted

45 international companies with policies applying to Latam countries

15 companies in Argentina

16 companies in Chile

31 companies in Colombia

2 companies in Ecuador

5 companies in Peru

1 company in Uruguay

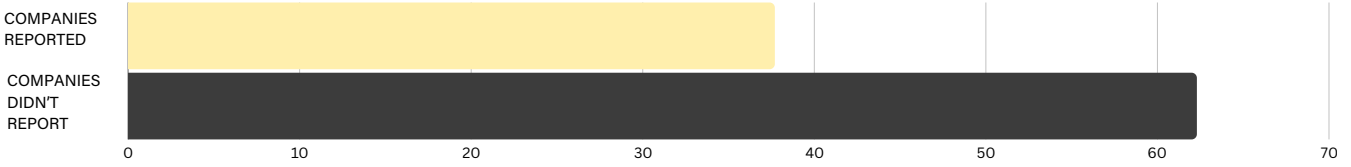
OVERALL TRANSITION TO CAGE-FREE

1. Accor 🌐	33%	30. Grupo Jaka 🇨🇺	100%
2. Alimentos Colomer 🇨🇪	5%	31. Hacienda San Alonso 🇨🇪	100%
3. Almacén de Pizzas 🇨🇺	5%	32. Harinera Del Valle 🇨🇪	5%
4. Anticuchos del Perú 🇵🇪	100%	33. Harper 🇨🇺	50%
5. Antigua Casona San Blas 🇵🇪	100%	34. Havanna 🇨🇺	20.80%
6. Arcos Dorados 🌐	10.80%	35. Hotel Selina Peru 🇵🇪	10%
7. Aramark 🌐	1%	36. Hotel Viral America 🇨🇪	100%
8. Barilla Brasil 🌐	100%	37. Hoteles Estelar 🇨🇪	44%
9. Brioché Dorée Argentina 🇨🇺	95%	38. Juan Valdez 🇨🇪	0%
10. Cachafaz 🇨🇺	100%	39. Kellogg 🌐	0%
11. Café Martínez 🇨🇺	80%	40. Kraft Heinz 🌐	11%
12. Carne 🇨🇺	100%	41. La Lonchera - Sushi Bogotá 🇨🇪	No reply
13. Castillo Forestal 🇨🇺	95%	42. Lancaster House 🇨🇪	100%
14. Chungo 🇨🇺	0%	43. Le Pain Quotidien Argentina 🇨🇺	70%
15. Cinco Millas 🇵🇪	100%	44. Le Pain Quotidien Colombia 🇨🇪	100%
16. Clementina 🇨🇺	100%	45. Marriott 🌐	0%
17. Colo Coffee 🇨🇪	100%	46. Melia 🌐	No reply
18. Compass Group 🌐	5%	47. Minor 🌐	59%
19. Crepes & Waffles Chile 🇨🇺	0%	48. Mistral 🇨🇪	100%
20. Crepes & Waffles Colombia 🇨🇪	33.81%	49. Moritz Eis 🇨🇺	50%
21. Crepes & Waffles Ecuador 🇨🇪	25%	50. Newrest 🌐	2%
22. Danone 🌐	100%	51. Oliveto 🇨🇪	100%
23. Dos Sucesos 🇨🇪	100%	52. Pampagourmet 🇨🇺	80%
24. Dunkin Chile 🇨🇺	0%	53. Papachos 🇵🇪	0%
25. El Trigal 🇨🇺	0%	54. Qbano 🇨🇪	100%
26. Explora 🇨🇺	100%	55. RBI 🌐	1%
27. Four Seasons 🌐	88%	56. Unilever 🌐	19%
28. Fork 🇨🇺	40%	57. Vapiano 🌐	100%
29. Groso 🇨🇪	100%	58. Wok 🇨🇪	100%

*Sinergia Animal does not conduct audits on the reported progress of companies. The figures mentioned here are based on the information provided by the respective companies.

LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION AND TRANSITION BY REGION/COUNTRY

MULTINATIONAL COMMITMENTS COVERING LATIN AMERICA: 45



17 companies reported (37.7%):

Accor Hotels, Aramark, Arcos Dorados, Barilla, Compass Group, Danone, Dunkin Brands, Four Seasons, Kellogg Company, Kraft Heinz, Marriott, Meliá, Minor Hotels, Newrest, Restaurant Brands International, Unilever, Vapiano.

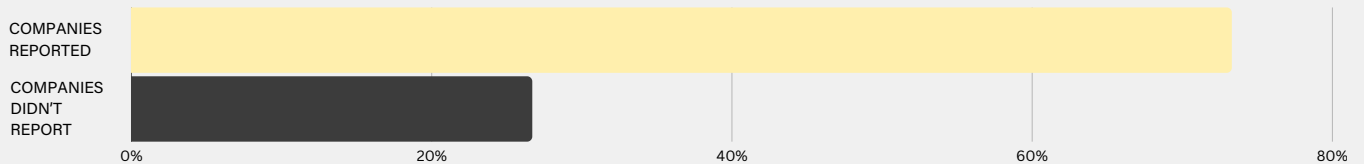
*Dunkin Brands only reported in Chile.

28 companies didn't report (62,3%):

Associated British Foods, Best Western Hotel Group, Bimbo, Bloomin' Brands, Cencosud, Club Med, Focus Brands, Food Delivery Brands, Gate Group, General Mills, Groupe Le Duff, Hilton, Hyatt, Intercontinental Hotels Group, Mondelez, Nestlé, Norwegian Cruise Line, Papa Johns, PepsiCo, Puratos, Royal Caribbean, Sodexo, Starbucks, Subway, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, Yum Brands.

1. Arcos Dorados 🌍	10.80%	10. Aramark 🌍	1%
2. Barilla Brasil 🌍	100%	11. Danone 🌍	100%
3. Dunkin Brands (Chile) 🌍	0%	12. Kraft Heinz 🌍	11%
4. Kellogg 🌍	0%	13. Unilever 🌍	19%
5. Melia 🌍	No reply	14. Marriott 🌍	0%
6. RBI 🌍	1%	15. Minor 🌍	59%
7. Vapiano 🌍	100%	16. Newrest 🌍	2%
8. Compass Group 🌍	5%	17. Four Seasons 🌍	88%
9. Accor 🌍	33%		

COMMITMENTS IN ARGENTINA: 15



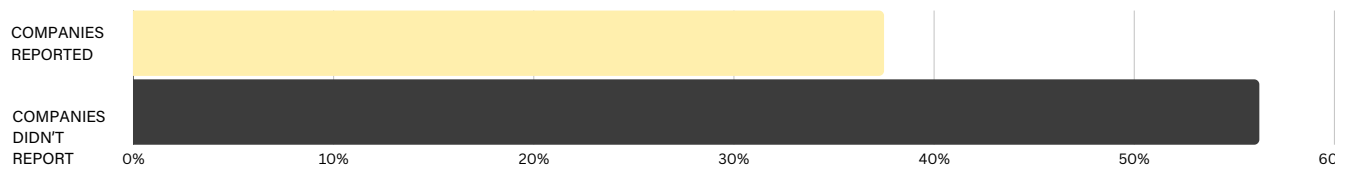
11 companies reported (73,3%):

The companies that reported in Argentina are Almacén de Pizzas, Brioche Dorée, Cachafaz, Café Martínez, Carne Hamburguesas, Chungo, Grupo Jaka (Green Eat and Tea Connection), Harper Juice Bar, Havana, Le Pain Quotidien, Pampagourmet.

4 companies didn't report (26,7%):

Carrefour, Freddo, La Mantequería, Tostado Café Club.

1. Almacén de Pizzas 🇲🇪	5%	7. Grupo Jaka 🇲🇪	100%
2. Brioche Dorée Argentina 🇲🇪	95%	8. Harper 🇲🇪	50%
3. Cachafaz 🇲🇪	100%	9. Havana 🇲🇪	20.80%
4. Café Martinez 🇲🇪	80%	10. Le Pain Quotidien Argentina 🇲🇪	70%
5. Carne 🇲🇪	100%	11. Pampagourmet 🇲🇪	80%
6. Chungo 🇲🇪	0%		

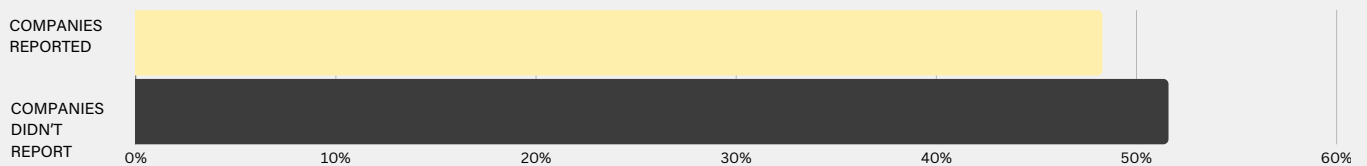
COMMITMENTS IN CHILE: 16**6 companies reported (37.5%):**

Castillo Forestal, Crepes & Waffles, Explora, Fork, La Clementina, Moritz Eis.

10 companies didn't report (56.25%):

Buffalo Waffles, Carl's Jr., Cencosud Chile, Dominó, Le Vice Chocolat, Lo Saldes, Tquila, Unifood.

1. Castillo Forestal 🇨🇱	95%	4. Fork 🇨🇱	40%
2. Clementina 🇨🇱	100%	5. Crepes & Waffles Chile 🇨🇱	0%
3. Explora 🇨🇱	100%	6. Moritz Eis 🇨🇱	50%

COMMITMENTS IN COLOMBIA: 31**16 companies reported (48,3%):**

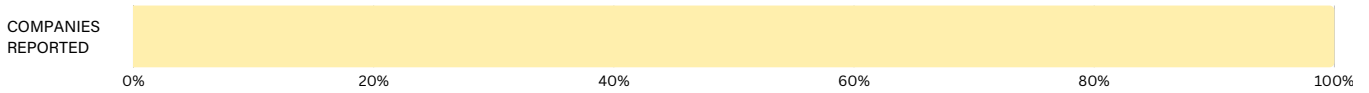
Colo Coffee, Colomer, Crepes & Waffles Colombia, Groso, Hacienda San Alonso, Harinera del Valle, Hotel Vilar América, Hoteles Estelar, Juan Valdez Café, La Lonchera, Lancaster House, Le Pain Quotidien Colombia, Mistral, Oliveto Italian Pizza & Pasta, Qbano, Wok.

15 companies didn't report (51.6%):

Carnival Corporation, Cencosud Colombia, Colombina, International Meal Company, Levapan, Mikaela, Myriam Camhi, OFC, Pan Pa Ya, Takami, Tostao.

1. Alimentos Colomer 🇨🇴	5%	9. La Lonchera - Sushi Bogotá 🇨🇴	No reply
2. Colo Coffee 🇨🇴	100%	10. Lancaster House 🇨🇴	100%
3. Groso 🇨🇴	100%	11. Le Pain Quotidien Colombia 🇨🇴	100%
4. Hacienda San Alonso 🇨🇴	100%	12. Mistral 🇨🇴	100%
5. Harinera Del Valle 🇨🇴	5%	13. Oliveto 🇨🇴	100%
6. Hotel Viral America 🇨🇴	100%	14. Qbano 🇨🇴	100%
7. Hoteles Estelar 🇨🇴	44%	15. Wok 🇨🇴	100%
8. Juan Valdez 🇨🇴	0%	16. Crepes & Waffles Colombia 🇨🇴	33.81%

COMMITMENTS IN ECUADOR: 2

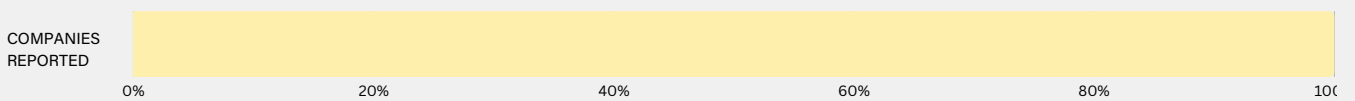


2 companies reported (100%):

Crepes & Waffles Ecuador, Dos Sucres.

1. Crepes & Waffles Ecuador 🇪🇨	25%	2. Dos Sucres 🇪🇨	100%
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COMMITMENTS IN PERU: 5

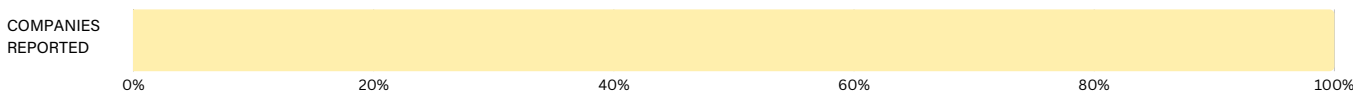


5 companies reported (100%):

Anticuchos del Perú, Antigua Casona San Blas, Hotel Selina, Papachos, Tanta.

1. Anticuchos del Perú 🇵🇪	100%	4. Hotel Selina Perú 🇵🇪	10%
2. Antigua Casona San Blas 🇵🇪	100%	5. Papachos 🇵🇪	0%
3. Cinco Millas 🇵🇪	100%		

COMMITMENTS IN URUGUAY: 1



1 company reported (100%):

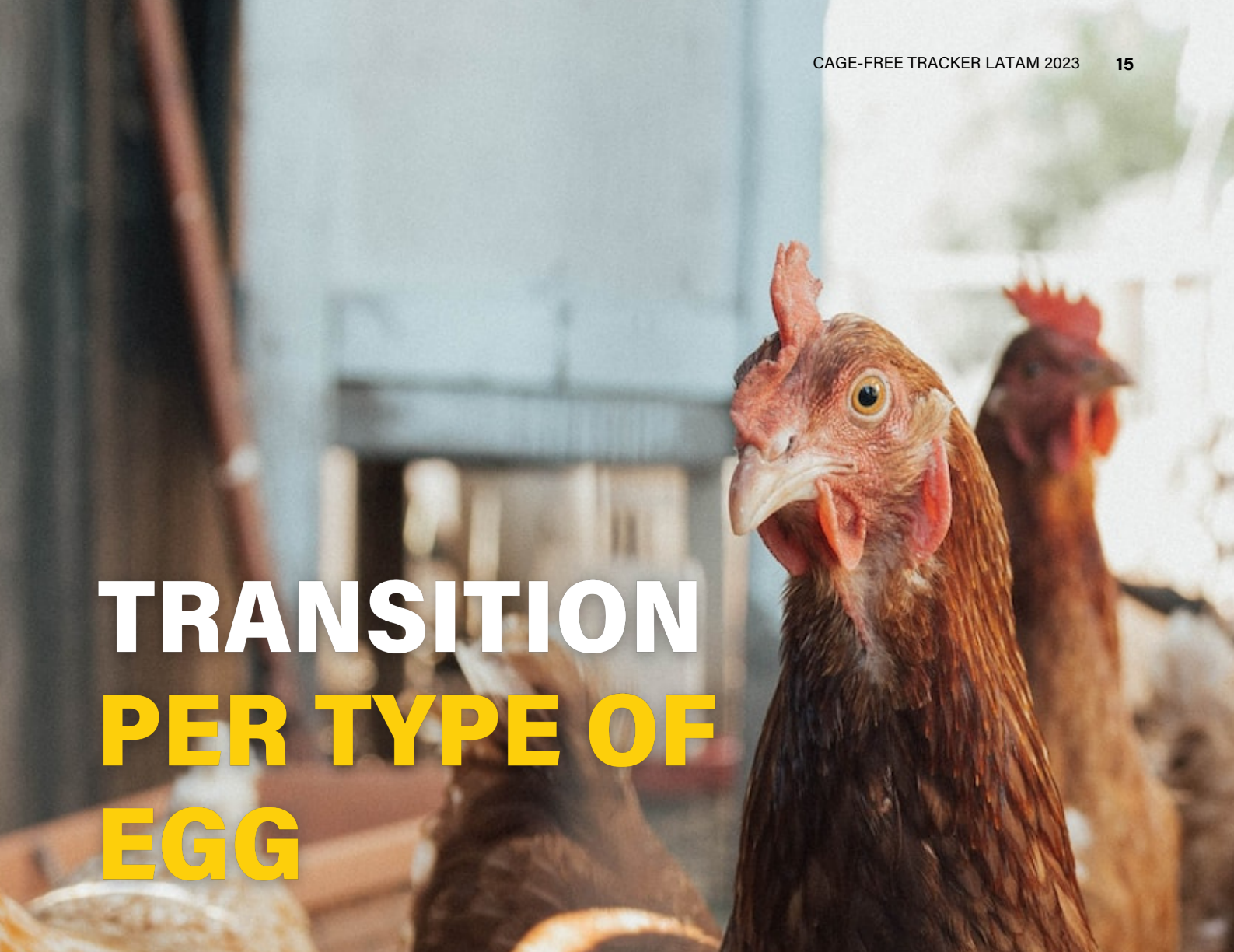
El Trigal

1. El Trigal 🇺🇾	0%
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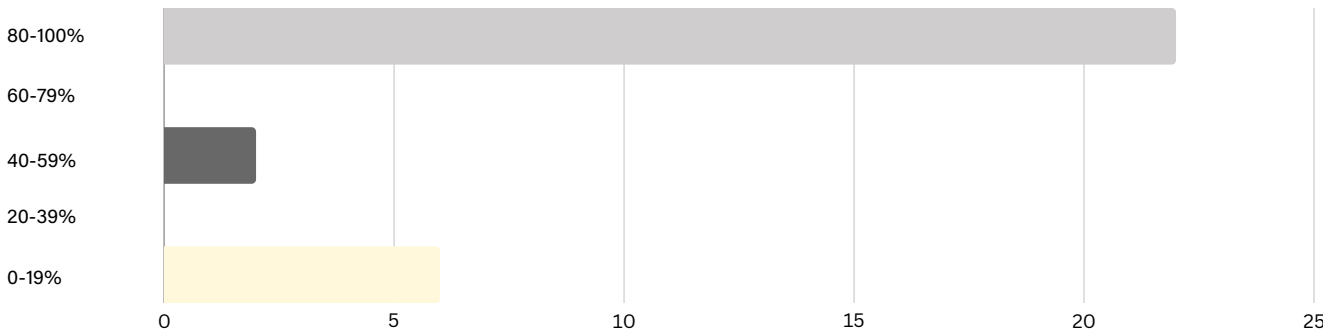
COMPANIES THAT HAVEN'T REPORTED IN THE LAST YEARS:

Carrefour, Tostado Café Club, Colombina, International Meal Company, Grupo Iga, Mesofoods, Productos La Locura, G&N Brands, Buffalo Waffles, Carl's Jr, Unifood, Cencosud, Best Western, General Mills, Bimbo, Hilton, Hyatt, Intercontinental Hotels Group, Mondelez, Nestlé, Norwegian Cruise Line, Papa Johns, PepsiCo, Puratos, Royal Caribbean, Sodexo, Starbucks, Subway, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, Yum Brands.

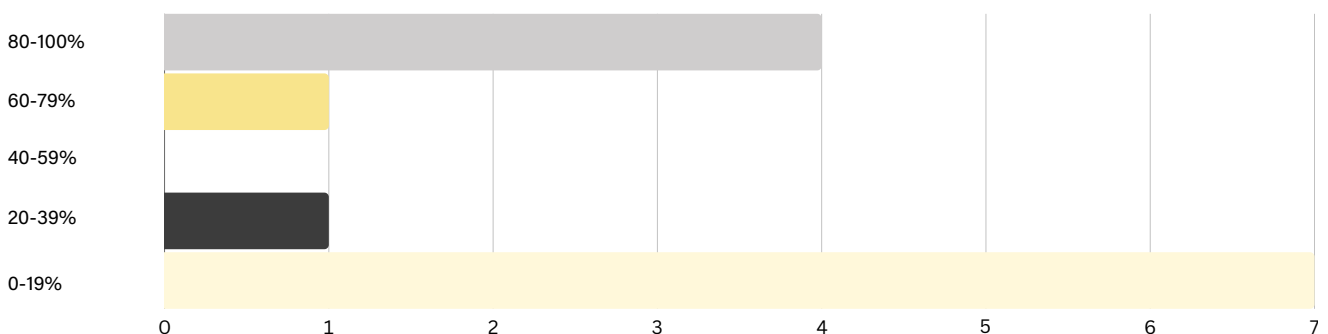
TRANSITION PER TYPE OF EGG



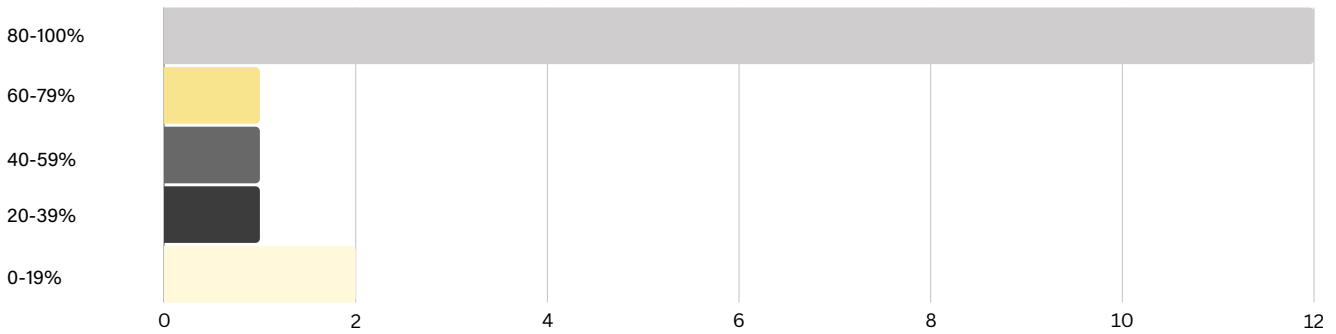
TRANSITION TO CAGE-FREE FRESH EGGS IN LATIN AMERICA:



TRANSITION PERCENTAGES FOR PROCESSED EGGS IN LATIN AMERICA:



TRANSITIONS PERCENTAGES FOR EGGS AS INGREDIENTS IN LATIN AMERICA:



COMPANIES OBSTACLES:

- 16** companies reported concerns about the lack of cage-free egg suppliers or insufficient stock

- 10** reported issues regarding a higher cost for cage-free eggs

- 04** reported difficulty in finding certified suppliers

- 03** reported difficulty in reaching the minimum purchase required by suppliers

- 02** reported difficulty with logistics

- 02** reported difficulty to identify the origin of eggs used in outsourced products

Other facts about the 58 companies that reported progress

Does the company have their cage-free commitment publicly available?

YES : **89.6% of companies**
 NO : **10.34% of companies**

Have companies identified cage-free egg suppliers?
**Percentages calculated based on 43 self-reports.*

Companies that have identified cage-free egg suppliers: **86%**

Companies that haven't yet identified cage-free egg suppliers: **14%**

NEXT STEPS

For the coming 2024 Cage-Free Tracker, our strategy entails maintaining open communication with companies already reporting internal consumption data and improving data quality. We'll collaborate on updated cage-free egg supplier databases, ensuring current information availability.

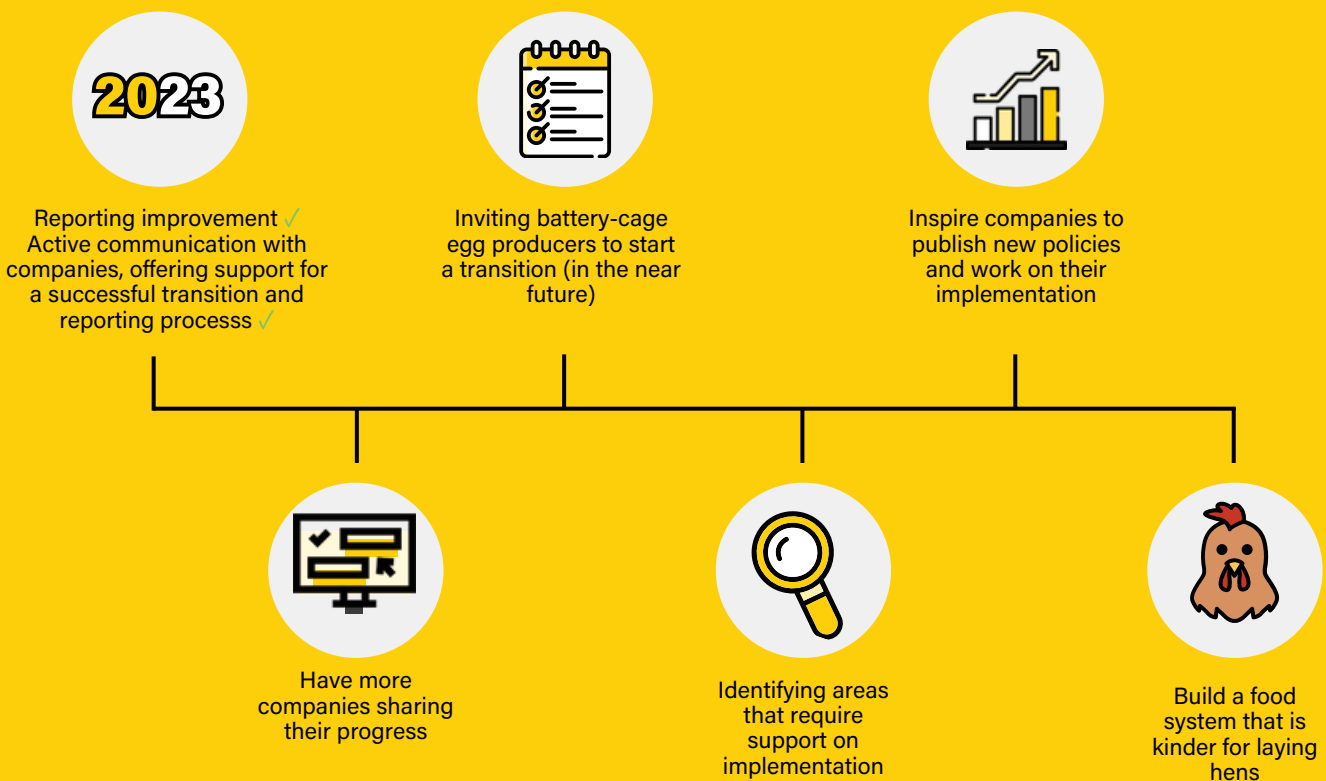


Additionally, we'll continue engaging and supporting companies yet to begin the transition process. Collaboration with like-minded NGOs remains a priority, enhancing our collective impact. Encouraging multinational corporations to transparently report progress on their websites (including regional breakdowns, types of eggs used, and percentages) will be central to our advocacy efforts. These steps are crucial as we work towards a more compassionate egg industry across Latin America.

Some companies understand the process of reporting yearly, the data they need to collect, and how the program works. We need to explain that companies must be held accountable for their cage-free policies, with complete transparency and tangible results as the minimum requirement. While there has been modest progress in improving conditions for hens in Latin America, there is still a long way to go.

Sinergia Animal encourages dialogue and advancements at the regional level, urging companies to address areas in their supply chains that need immediate attention. The Cage-Free Tracker serves both as inspiration, showcasing achievements, and as a call to action for those not yet doing enough to fulfill their promises.

It's time for companies to take decisive action and accelerate their efforts toward eradicating battery cages from their supply chains to uphold animal welfare standards and create a more sustainable and respectful food system in Latin America.





ABOUT

Sinergia Animal is an international animal protection organization working in countries of the Global South to reduce the suffering of farmed animals and promote more compassionate food choices.

We are recognized as one of the most effective animal protection NGOs in the world by Animal Charity Evaluators (ACE).



www.sinergiaanimalinternational.org

