



Nutrition counts from day one: the first 1,000 days that shape a life

Call to Action on catalyzing large-scale food fortification to end child malnutrition by 2030

Why a Call to Action?

Despite significant progress over the last few decades, the triple burden of malnutrition still affects billions of people globally. Around 645 million people are facing hunger, more than two billion are overweight or obese, and two billion people suffer from micronutrient deficiencies (“hidden hunger”). Women of reproductive age and children under the age of two are particularly affected.

Adequate nutrition, especially during the first 1,000 days of life – from pregnancy to a child’s second birthday – is critical for healthy development. That is why the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has launched the initiative “Strong for Life through Nutrition Security”. The initiative places mothers, infants and children at the center of the fight against hunger and malnutrition. Together with more than 50 partners from the public sector, civil society, academia and the private sector, the BMZ has launched a Call to Action on large-scale food fortification in order to reduce child malnutrition during the first 1,000 days of life.

Alongside improved dietary diversity and supplementation, large-scale food fortification (LSFF) can address nutritional needs, particularly where access to diverse, nutritious foods is limited. Fortification of staple foods is a proven, cost-effective, sustainable and far-reaching solution for addressing micronutrient gaps and hidden hunger.

How to end child malnutrition by 2030

To achieve a world free from hunger and malnutrition and improve early childhood nutrition by 2030, the BMZ is calling for efforts to be accelerated and LSFF to be catalyzed across five action pathways:

- **Action pathway 1:** Reach the most marginalized populations, including mothers and children
- **Action pathway 2:** Strengthen regulatory governance
- **Action pathway 3:** Leverage trade and market systems
- **Action pathway 4:** Mobilize the private sector and build partnerships
- **Action pathway 5:** Build an enabling environment through systemic nutrition interventions, strengthening capacity while also advancing data management and research.

To track progress, the BMZ will be leading an annual stocktake and leveraging critical moments for policymaking and decision-making.

Further information

- <https://www.sustainability-conference.org/en/hsc26#new-alliances-2025>
- If you would like to join our efforts and endorse the Call to Action, please contact theresa.herbold@bmz.bund.de or RL104@bmz.bund.de.

The Call to Action has been endorsed by the following partners:

1. Access to Nutrition initiative (ATNi)
2. BASF
3. Benzair Income Support Programme (BISP)
4. Biover
5. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Caritas Germany
6. El-kanis Agro
7. Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI)
8. Food Fortification Initiative
9. Gates Foundation
10. Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)
11. Global Alliance for the Prevention of Spina Bifida (GAPSBiF)
12. Global Citizen
13. Global Partnership for Nutrition Initiative (GPNI)
14. Government of Ireland
15. Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone
16. Helen Keller Intl and Helen Keller Europe
17. Hexagon Nutrition
18. International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (IFSBH)
19. International Society for Global Neurosurgery (ISGNS)
20. International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery (ISPN)
21. International Trade Centre (ITC)
22. Iodine Global Network
23. ISF Advisors
24. Kavle Consulting, LLC
25. Micronutrient Forum
26. Millers for Nutrition (M4N)
27. MotherFood International
28. Muehlenchemie GmbH & Co. KG
29. Nutrition International (NI)
30. Patanjali Foods Limited
31. PATH
32. Population and Development Initiative (PDI)
33. Probha Aurora Ltd.
34. Quality Service International (QSI) Togo
35. Sanku
36. Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement
37. Sylva Foods Solutions
38. TechnoServe
39. The FutureFood Platform
40. UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
41. Universidad de La Sabana
42. Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
43. West African Health Organization (WAHO)
44. World Bank Group (WBG)
45. World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS)
46. World Food Forum Rwanda Chapter
47. World Food Programme (WFP)
48. Yalla Healthy Living



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