Summary Report: First Call to Action Partners Meeting

From Hamburg to Accra:
First partners meeting on the Call to Action on catalysing large-scale food fortification to end child malnutrition by 2030

Side Event of the Micronutrient Forum 7th Global Conference
29 September 2026, 19:00–20:30
Kempinski Hotel Gold Coast City, Accra, Ghana

Key take-away messages

- **Support advancing the five Call to Action Pathways with implementation of key actions**. Current partner activities combined with opportunities for action will help achieve partner visions in the area of large-scale food fortification (LSFF) by 2030 and beyond. A focus on overcoming immediate barriers and bottlenecks to successful LSFF implementation will spur momentum for continued progress.
- **Make fortified foods a routine part of programmes reaching vulnerable populations.** Reaching populations outside of formal markets is a tremendous opportunity to increase the reach of fortification. School meals, social protection, humanitarian assistance, and public procurement offer practical channels for expanding access to fortified foods.
- **Strengthen implementation of regulatory requirements.** Effective standards and enforcement will have positive impacts on fortification compliance by increasing the availability of fortified foods. This requires clear agency responsibilities, trained personnel, reliable testing, stronger monitoring systems, and sustained domestic financing. Existing guidance and partner initiatives provide a foundation for this work.
- **Address trade and supply-chain barriers.** Regional harmonisation of fortification standards can facilitate cross-border trade of compliant foods. Together with

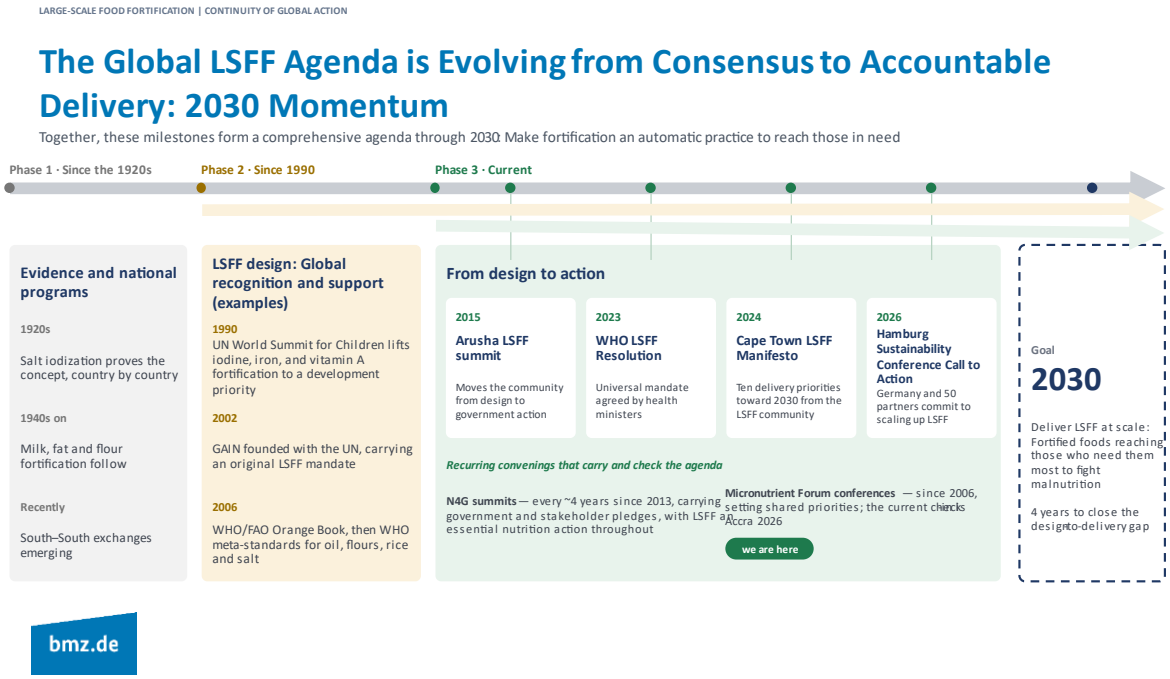
improved customs arrangements, and measures to address premix costs and quality, this could improve access to fortification inputs and increase the availability of fortified foods across the region.

- **Build a stronger business case for private sector participation.** A strong business case demonstrating the commercial value of investing in LSFF can encourage private sector participation and sustained investment. Predictable demand, affordable quality premix, access to financing, and commercially viable incentives are important for sustained engagement, particularly among small and medium-sized enterprises.
- **Improve coordination, evidence use, and accountability.** Expanding and sustaining LSFF efforts, especially with constrained resources, requires improved coordination, access to reliable data and a clear framework to track progress. Clear roles, stronger government ownership, better data sharing, and collaboration among government, businesses, communities, and development partners are needed across all five pathways.
- **Operationalise the Call to Action** and prepare for the January 2027 stocktake in Berlin on the margins of the International Green Week and the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture are the central next steps. Continued dialogue should help identify priority activities, clarify partner contributions, and gather evidence of progress.

Introduction

Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) held its "First Call to Action Partners Meeting on catalysing large-scale food fortification to end malnutrition by 2030" at the Micronutrient Forum 7th Global Conference in Accra, Ghana, on 29 September. The side event brought together over 70 partners from governments, international organizations, civil society, academia, and the private sector. BMZ and partners launched the Call to Action at the Hamburg Sustainability Conference in June 2026, recognizing large-scale food fortification (LSFF)—the addition of essential vitamins and minerals to staple foods and condiments during processing—as a proven, cost-effective and sustainable way to combat micronutrient deficiencies, which affect 1.2 billion non-pregnant women of reproductive age and 372 million preschool-aged children 6–59 months worldwide (Stevens et al.[1]). These deficiencies limit children's development, perpetuating poverty and costing the global economy up to US$4.1 trillion annually (Shekar et al.[2]). The Call to Action forms part of recent key events in the global LSFF agenda, building off a rich LSFF history and more recently, the 2015 Arusha Summit, 2023 World Health Organization (WHO) LSFF Resolution, and the 2024 Cape Town LSFF Manifesto (Figure 1). The Call to Action serves to accelerate partner actions to reach Sustainable Development Goal 2 to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030, especially among vulnerable groups such as women and children.

Figure 1. The global LSFF agenda and milestones to achieve the 2030 LSFF goal



Objectives of the First Call to Action Partners Meeting

The objectives of the First Call to Action Partners Meeting were to:

- **Strengthen the partnership base:** Engage endorsing partners and reach out to additional stakeholders from the agriculture, food and nutrition sectors following the launch of the Call to Action at the Hamburg Sustainability Conference in June 2026.
- **Translate commitments into coordinated action:** Identify synergies and areas for collaboration in advancing large-scale food fortification, building on the outcomes of the LSFF Partners Joint Action Planning Meeting held on 27 September 2026.
- **Shape the pathway towards the first stocktake:** Develop a common understanding of progress under the Call to Action and collect inputs on successes as well as gaps and sequence initial actions to prepare for the first annual stocktake at the margins of the International Green Week in Berlin in January 2027.

Keynote addresses

Keynote speakers from the Gates Foundation and the West African Health Organization shared with participants the critical importance of LSFF in the fight against child malnutrition. The Gates Foundation noted the need to shift LSFF from policy to implementation by scaling what works, improving compliance and coverage, and effectively engaging industry and government. Priorities towards 2030 include not only the scaling of known solutions, but also deepening cross-sector partnerships and ensuring quality and delivery. The West African Health Organization plays a crucial role supporting

LSFF in the West Africa region through policy harmonization, coordination, capacity strengthening, and improving data and governance, and is emerging as a model for regional collaboration and support.

Building on the Food Fortification Partners Joint Action Planning Meeting and the Access to Nutrition Initiative (ATNi) Business and Nutrition side events

The meeting built upon the outcomes of two side events at the Micronutrient Forum 7th Global Conference in Accra: i) the Global Fortification Technical Advisory Group (GF TAG) LSFF Partners Joint Action Planning Meeting held on Sunday, September 27 2026, and ii) the ATNi event "From Paris to Accra: The Nutrition Imperative for Business" held on Monday, 28 September 2026. The GF TAG Partners Meeting aimed to accelerate LSFF progress through coordination, collaboration, and alignment around key actions under seven priority thematic areas that align with the 2024 Manifesto for Accelerated Action on LSFF and the Hamburg Sustainability Conference Call to Action, while the ATNi event explored how to strengthen private sector collaboration and investment for better nutrition.

During the Call to Action session, working group leads for each of the seven GF TAG priority areas and the chief executive officer for ATNi shared challenges, priorities moving forward, and collaborative efforts to achieve the priorities that came out of the side events, summarized below per thematic area.



© Micronutrient Forum

- **Engaging the private sector**: Challenges include lack of affordable, quality premix, financing, reliable testing, fair competition, clear policies, and transparent accountability. Priorities for 2030 are to provide the private sector with a voice, working with them as partners in developing peer-led support and tools, and having industry driven accountability, access to capital, and opportunities to grow through trade and stronger markets. Scaling up Millers for Nutrition is one of the efforts to achieve these priorities.
- **Data analysis and harmonization**: Fortification data is inconsistently and disparately collected and communicated. Top 2030 priorities are to use existing data such as market assessments, compliance monitoring, and household consumption and expenditure data and modelling, while intentionally embedding fortification modules into country information systems. Also, imperative is funding, strengthening, and sustaining regional leadership to support data use for decision-making. A key collaborative effort to advance these priorities is working with GF TAG to disseminate the new LSFF indicator guidance and actively driving cross-sector coordination across regulators, ministries, industry, and research institutions.
- **Integrating LSFF into national food systems**: Policymakers often do not integrate LSFF into national food systems policies, pathways, investment plans and sector programs. Priorities include embedding LSFF within broader food systems efforts and strengthening implementation, including compliance, quality assurance, quality control, monitoring, and enforcement. Regional collaboration is working to harmonize standards, regulatory approaches, and monitoring mechanisms, while promoting cross-country learning and experience sharing.
- **Reaching the most vulnerable with fortified foods**: A key challenge is ensuring that fortified foods reach the populations vulnerable to undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies who need them most. Priorities for 2030 are to establish policies to require fortified foods in institutional programs, regional harmonization of standards, development of practical “how-to” guidance, and improving local evidence to inform investment decisions.
- **Engaging the public sector—LSFF governance**: Participants highlighted poor compliance implementation, low resources for monitoring, and lack of government coordination as key challenges. Priorities leading up to 2030 are to integrate fortification requirements into existing legal frameworks, focus enforcement where risks and compliance gaps are greatest (risk-based inspections), and strengthen high-level national government coordination structures. Coordination efforts include establishing a GF TAG working group on governance, supporting countries on governance issues—including national fortification alliances, and setting up peer exchanges to share experiences and lessons learned.
- **Regional leadership and coordination**: Fragmentation and lack of regional coordination, harmonization and learning make it difficult to translate regional commitments into consistent, sustainable country action. Priorities include institutionalizing LSFF within existing regional platforms and mandates; advancing

harmonization of minimum standards and regulatory approaches; decreasing cross-border trade barriers; incentivizing private-sector fortification; strengthening regional systems for monitoring, quality assurance/control, certification, laboratory capacity and peer learning; translating regional frameworks into country-level action; and systematically documenting what works. Collaborative efforts are taking place via regional fortification alliances, economic communities, and other regional coordination mechanisms.

- **Advocacy and communications**: A key challenge highlighted was the high import charges on premix. The immediate priority is to advocate at country level for a zero-rated tariff on premix, given the opportunity afforded by a new, dedicated premix tariff code. Collaborative efforts by the GF TAG advocacy and communications working group are working to identify key partners from the government, private sector and civil society in countries to build the case for a zero-rated tariff on premix using best practice advocacy guidance materials.
- **ATNi side event**: Operationalising private finance commitments made at the Nutrition for Growth Summit is a challenge, while the highest priorities by 2030 are building an enabling environment through better regulations and incentives, unlocking financing and technical assistance, and strengthening evidence and accountability on what works and where investment is needed. ATNi's MarketFit Nutrition 2035 initiative is an example of a collaborative effort to achieve these priorities.

The GF TAG advocacy and communications working group will focus on its priority areas, and new working groups will be formed for data analysis and harmonization and LSFF governance. The GF TAG will further develop regional leadership and coordination, focusing on occasional meetings and sharing lessons learned. Priorities in other thematic areas will be taken up by the existing working group on advocacy and communications or the new working groups.

Gathering Insights from the Call to Action Participants: Small-Group Exchange by Call to Action Pathway

The BMZ Call to Action on catalysing LSFF to end child malnutrition includes five action pathways (APs), based on internationally agreed guidelines, evidence, policy frameworks and initiatives. Participants in the first Call to Action meeting self-selected into working groups, one for each action pathway, to discuss four key questions (Box 1). A summary of the working groups' most frequently mentioned themes is shown below by action pathway.

Box 1. Working group questions

1. What would progress for the pathway look like by 2030? (Formulation of vision)
2. What bottlenecks need to be tackled to advance this pathway? (Context and gaps)
3. What activities are you implementing that contribute to this pathway? (Key actions and prioritization)
4. What opportunities do you see to advance this pathway in the next year? (Next steps)

AP1: Reach the most marginalized populations (including mothers and children)

For progress by 2030, responses centered on integrating fortified foods into institutional procurement and assistance programs (for example, social protection, humanitarian assistance, and school meal programs) to reach populations vulnerable to malnutrition, while regulatory, policy, enforcement, and trade barriers were the most frequently raised bottlenecks. Current activities most often concerned regulatory strengthening, while regional engagement and building political momentum and coalitions including the private sector featured most prominently among opportunities.

AP2: Strengthen regulatory governance

Responses on progress by 2030 emphasized effective regulatory implementation and aligned standards with increased availability of fortified foods, while financing, workforce capacity, and weaknesses in monitoring, reliable testing, enforcement, and compliance were the most frequently raised bottlenecks. Current activities centered on monitoring and traceability systems and policies, standards, and guidance; sustained domestic financing, and clarifying agency mandates was specifically recorded.



© Micronutrient Forum

AP3: Leverage trade and market systems

Regional harmonisation and trade integration were the most recurring ambitions, while premix quality, costs, and supply-chain weaknesses formed the most frequently raised group of bottlenecks. Current activities most often concerned taxes, tariffs, customs, and premix codes; the two opportunities recorded were regional cooperation and awareness of Harmonized System codes.

AP4: Mobilize private sector and build relationships

Stronger private sector engagement and partnerships and building the business case for private sector participation and sustained investment were the most recurring ambitions, while weak, fragmented, or unpredictable demand and consumer preferences, high premix cost and low quality, and poor access to financing were the most frequently raised group of bottlenecks. Strengthening collaboration and alignment and supporting commercially viable incentives featured most prominently among opportunities; while there was insufficient time to discuss current activities.

AP5: Build the enabling environment

Supportive policies, improved standards and a clear framework to track progress were the most recurring ambitions, while lack of coordination, government ownership and accountability, clear roles and responsibilities, and evidence use under constrained resources were the most frequently raised bottlenecks. Current activities most often concerned policies, standards, legislation, data for decision making, and related advocacy; bringing partners together to exchange evidence and agree on next steps was specifically recorded.

Conclusion and next steps towards the January 2027 stocktake

The working-group discussions highlighted shared priorities across the five action pathways, including stronger regulatory implementation, sustainable financing, access to quality premix, better use of data and evidence, and closer coordination among partners. The meeting marked an important step towards operationalizing the Call to Action and translating its ambition into tangible impact. Building on this momentum, endorsers and supporters are invited to explore how their expertise and resources could further support this shared effort. The next milestone will be the annual stocktake early 2027, providing an opportunity to sustain high-level commitment, reflect on progress and explore priorities for further collaboration.

BMZ, GIZ, and the Micronutrient Forum thank all participants, presenters, and facilitators for their contributions and invite their continued engagement in advancing the Call to Action.

References

[1]Stevens, G.A., T. Beal, M.N.N. Mbuya, H. Luo, L.M. Neufeld, O.Y. Addo, et al. 2022. Micronutrient deficiencies among preschool-aged children and women of reproductive age worldwide: a pooled analysis of individual-level data from population-representative surveys, Lancet Glob. Health 10 (11) (2022) e1590–e1599, https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(22)00367-9.

[2]Shekar, M., K. Shibata Okamura, M. Vilar-Compte, C. Dell'Aira, editors. 2024. Investment Framework for Nutrition 2024 . Human Development Perspectives Overview booklet. © World Bank. https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:96d22e96-2d7f-411b-9ac3-e58456dab84d.