

# Include Large Scale Food Fortification in N4G Paris 2025

## A Commitment Guide for the Paris Nutrition for Growth Summit

We call on governments, businesses, development partners, and donors to prioritize nutrition by making pledges on large scale food fortification (LSFF) at N4G Paris.

This document is intended to complement the official [N4G commitment guide](#), to support those stakeholders considering a commitment on the topic of LSFF.

**If you are a national or regional policymaker, donor, business, or NGO:** below you will find guidance to support effective commitments to implement and strengthen LSFF programs.

**If you are a nutrition advocate, civil society group, researcher, or other allied supporter of micronutrient nutrition:** please share this information with commitment-making entities in your country that are writing commitments.



## Areas of Focus for N4G LSFF Commitments:



**FUNDING:** More funding committed to building LSFF programs, strengthening LSFF programs, monitoring LSFF quality, and gathering and sharing relevant data to inform these efforts.



**STRONG POLICY & REGULATION:** Governments strengthen their food fortification standards and policy frameworks where necessary and build internal capacity to enforce fortification mandates while supporting private sector capacity to comply.



**TARGETS:** Examples include national targets on reducing anemia, neural tube defects, and maternal mortality, as well as improving diets.



**DATA FOR DECISION-MAKING:** Fill the current data gaps that prohibit governments, businesses, donors, NGOs and communities from creating strong, context-specific LSFF programs and from effectively monitoring and enforcing compliance.



**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON FOOD FORTIFICATION ([WHA76.19](#))** The WHA resolution urges Member States to act on specific recommendations to accelerate progress of food fortification programs, including through financing, implementation, convening, monitoring/surveillance and reporting. Member States will have the opportunity to report on their activities via the official framework which will release reports on implementation of the WHA resolution in 2026, 2028, and 2030.

*This document was prepared by members of the Global Fortification Technical Advisory Group's (GF TAG) Advocacy and Communications Working Group, including Emory University Center for Spina Bifida Prevention, Food Fortification Initiative, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, Helen Keller Intl, International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, International Zinc Nutrition Consultative Group, Iodine Global Network, Micronutrient Forum, Nutrition International, TechnoServe, UNICEF, World Food Programme, and World Health Organization.*

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*The GF TAG Advocacy and Communications Working Group is coordinated by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and the Food Fortification Initiative (FFI). For more information on LSFF advocacy, please visit [futurefortified.org](http://futurefortified.org).*



# Background

## Why Food Fortification Commitments Are Important

Ending hunger and malnutrition in all its forms is about more than securing enough food to survive – what people eat must also be nutritious. However, nutritious foods and, by extension, healthy diets are unaffordable and unattainable for vast numbers of families. Approximately **2.8 billion people worldwide** – about 35% of the global population – cannot afford a healthy diet. This includes the minimum variety of food necessary for a diet that meets essential nutritional standards. The affordability gap is most acute in low-income countries, where up to 71.5% of people lack the means for a nutritionally adequate diet.<sup>1</sup> One in two preschool-aged children and two in three women of reproductive age worldwide suffer from at least one vitamin or mineral deficiency, increasing vulnerability to infectious disease and compromising child growth and development.<sup>2</sup>

The effects of climate change are likely to make this problem worse. For example, in 2019, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that increased carbon dioxide levels lower the nutritional value of inexpensive food staples like rice and wheat.<sup>3</sup>

In the context of a deepening polycrisis of hunger and malnutrition, a food system transformation is urgently needed to reduce the cost of nutritious foods and increase the affordability of healthy diets.<sup>4</sup> Evidence-based and highly cost-effective solutions, such as fortifying staple foods like maize flour, rice, wheat flour, cooking oil, and salt with essential vitamins and minerals, is a crucial intervention that can help to ensure that the food system delivers a more nutritious diet to all.

In 2023, national delegates to the 76th World Health Assembly (WHA) resolved to accelerate their efforts to prevent micronutrient deficiencies through food fortification. As established in the resolution, this can be accomplished by strengthening financing, monitoring, and enforcement mechanisms for existing large scale food fortification (LSFF) programs and assessing whether these programs can be improved through updating fortification standards to align with dietary patterns and levels of micronutrient malnutrition in the country.

## About Nutrition for Growth (N4G)

The Nutrition for Growth Summit (N4G) is a global effort to bring together country governments, donors and philanthropies, businesses, and NGOs, to mobilize new policy and financial commitments to tackle all forms of malnutrition, positioning the fight against malnutrition as an essential development priority.

*Partners unlock the power of good nutrition by:*

- Adopting stronger, evidence-based nutrition policies at global, regional, and country levels.
- Pledging to increase financing for proven nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions.
- Committing to align and harmonize actions across sectors and stakeholders.

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1 Concern Worldwide. *World Hunger Facts: What You Need to Know*. Retrieved from <https://www.concernusa.org/story/world-hunger-facts>. 2024.

2 Stevens, G., et al. "Micronutrient deficiencies among preschool-aged children and women of reproductive age worldwide: a pooled analysis of individual-level data from population-representative surveys." *The Lancet Global Health*. 2022.

3 Mbow, C., et al. "Food Security." In: *Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems*. 2019.

4 What are healthy diets? Joint statement by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization. Geneva: World Health Organization and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; 2024. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd2223en>.

Hosted by the Government of France on 27-28 March 2025, the N4G Summit will offer national governments, regional entities, businesses, donors, and NGOs an opportunity to officially register their plans and commitments to strengthen food fortification programs to fight malnutrition. Information and guidance on how to take advantage of this opportunity can be found below.

## Let's Do Better Than We Did at N4G Tokyo (2021)

The 2021 N4G Compact included 396 new nutrition commitments made by a total of 181 stakeholders across 78 countries. Donor governments and donor organizations committed new financing of over US\$23 billion to tackle malnutrition in all its forms.

While [some of these commitments included LSFF](#), the number of LSFF commitments made by national governments and regional entities was nominal. We see N4G commitments as a powerful potential catalyst for advancing LSFF at the national, regional, and global levels.

## How To Make a Commitment

N4G commitments are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART). N4G pledges to improve nutrition and strengthen food systems through LSFF are a perfect way to build on the momentum created by the [WHA food fortification resolution](#). N4G commitments on LSFF can reflect plans to strengthen food fortification programs and accelerate progress that will be reported at the WHA in 2026, 2028, and 2030 per the WHA76.19 resolution.

LSFF commitments as part of N4G can:

- be programmatic, policy-based, or financial, supporting progress toward national and regional nutrition goals and targets
- strengthen or build upon existing LSFF programs and policies, enabling these programs to reach more people with higher-quality fortified staple foods
- revise and update existing LSFF policies, bringing them in line with current data regarding food consumption and micronutrient deficiency

When preparing to make a commitment in a specific country, collaboration is essential. Before starting, engage with your national N4G focal point. In countries that are part of the [Scaling Up Nutrition \(SUN\) Movement](#), the N4G focal point is often the SUN Government Focal Point ([see list of SUN countries](#)). If you are unsure of your country's N4G focal point or your country is not part of the SUN Movement, contact Paris N4G at [n4g.dgm-dag-huma@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:n4g.dgm-dag-huma@diplomatie.gouv.fr). The national N4G focal point will coordinate, collate, and submit N4G commitments in advance of the summit.

## Examples of SMART Pledges

A broad range of experts in the field of staple food fortification, have come together to endorse the following set of SMART commitments that can be customized and used by donors, governments, and businesses in their pledges and commitments at N4G. Each of these recommended commitments would expand access to fortified foods in countries that experience a high degree of micronutrient malnutrition.



## Donors, Multilateral Agencies, and NGOs

### **SMART Commitment – example**

In support of promoting and building new fortification programs in countries with a high burden of micronutrient deficiencies, [donor or development partner name] will allocate at least [x%] of new investments in nutrition from [year] to [year] to strengthening government capacity to design, enact, and/or enforce large scale staple food fortification programs.

Commit [number] [currency] to promoting and building new fortification programs in countries with a high burden of micronutrient deficiencies, including by:

- strengthening government capacity to design, enact, and enforce large scale staple food fortification programs, including new food vehicles and additional micronutrients where these are warranted and supporting high-quality fortification that meets WHO recommendations;
- supporting countries to ensure they have effective national fortification alliances that provide essential design, oversight, monitoring, and course correction for continuous improvement of fortification programs;
- supporting the availability of quality vitamin/mineral premix and the capacity of the food industry to fortify in compliance with national standards;
- investing in digital platforms and systems to monitor and ensure fortification quality;
- generating and sharing data on fortification quality and the impact of food fortification programs on nutrition outcomes.

## Governments

### **SMART Commitment – example**

To support and inform action on existing fortification programs, [country name] will collect data on compliance and coverage of fortified staple foods, starting from [date], and will report on these indicators annually from [date] to [date].

Conduct an analysis to:

- evaluate the quality and coverage of existing fortification programs, and if found to be robust, evaluate the effectiveness, safety, and impact of existing fortification programs, including how these programs could be improved;
- assess the need for new staple food fortification vehicles or additional nutrients that should be added to existing national fortification standards;
- determine what support national actors require to move the fortification agenda forward;

And establish or amend fortification policies and standards in accordance with the results of this analysis.

Conduct an annual national assessment and publish data on compliance (adherence to food fortification standards or regulations) and coverage of fortified staple food(s). Add appropriate fortification-related questions to relevant national surveys.

Establish an ambitious target for coverage and availability of fortified staple foods across the country e.g., [xx%] of the country will have access to fortified staple foods by [date].

<p>Commit to sharing the status of food fortification with regard to financing, implementation, monitoring/surveillance, and data-sharing via the World Health Assembly reporting mechanism, established in resolution WHA76.19, which will issue reports in 2026, 2028, and 2030.</p>
<p>Require the distribution of fortified foods in social safety net programs. When social safety nets distribute in-kind food, require that staples are fortified and meet national fortification standards. When social safety nets are cash or voucher based, require availability of fortified foods and the use of Social and Behavior Change Communication to build demand for them in the target population. Require procurement of fortified staple foods by public institutions such as schools, hospitals, and shelters. Educate the public regarding the importance of good nutrition to good health.</p>
<p>Create (or increase) a line in the national budget to [number] [currency] for oversight, enforcement, and impact assessment of fortification standards and regulations. Appoint or create a nodal ministry to oversee national fortification programs. Support the development and/or continuation of an effective national fortification alliance that provides a space for information sharing, collaboration, monitoring, and course correction for continuous improvement of fortification programs.</p>
<p>Create (or increase) a line in the national budget to [number] [currency] for financial support to build the capacity of small and medium enterprises to fortify staple foods in compliance with national standards.</p>
<p>Commit by [date] to incorporating large scale food fortification into the national food systems transformation pathway, with a dedicated budget allocation of [amount] and implementation plan.</p>
<p>Support the ability of the private sector to produce fortified staple foods by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• classifying vitamin and mineral premix as an essential health commodity to ensure rapid clearance at ports and border crossings;</li> <li>• exempting premix from import duties and taxes;</li> <li>• prioritizing the use of foreign exchange for premix imports; and/or</li> <li>• maintaining or facilitating a stock of premix at national level to ensure local availability for producers of fortified foods.</li> </ul>

<b>Private Sector</b>
<b>Food Producers</b>
<p><b>SMART Commitment – example</b></p> <p>By [date], [name of food producer] will ensure that 100% [name of ingredients] used in the production of [name of food] are fortified to national standards.</p>
<p>Use fortified ingredients such as iodized salt and fortified flour, rice, and oil. Source fortified ingredients locally wherever possible.</p>
<p>Offer voluntary expertise and support to [number] MSMEs annually to support their ability to fortify staple food products.</p>
<p>Regularly publish independently verifiable data on fortification quality, using a digital tool such as Fortify Management Information System (FortifyMIS).</p>

Release annual reports containing information relevant to fortification, including the volume of fortified products produced and the volume of premix procured for fortification.
Appropriately label products as fortified, using the national or regional fortification logo where one exists.
Issue a public statement of support for government efforts to instate and enforce fortification mandates and standards.
Offer [number] hours of expertise, advice, and training to MSME's on staple food fortification.
Educate customers about the benefits of fortified staple foods, for example by leading, joining, or funding a public education campaign.
<b>Companies in the Premix and Nutrient Analytics Supply Chain</b>
<b><i>SMART Commitment – example</i></b>
By [date], [name of premix supplier] will ensure that 100% of premixes used for mandatory food production programs are of the quality necessary to meet relevant standards.
Abide by the WHO's Code of Practice for Food Premix Operations, <sup>5</sup> including completing and publishing the results of a self-audit
Achieve an internationally recognized certification, such as the Global Food Safety Initiative by [date]
Institute a pricing scheme to provide premix at reduced cost to [number] high-need markets in emerging and developing countries
Provide [number] hours of technical advice and training to factories and laboratories annually to support quality fortification in countries with a high burden of malnutrition
Create a logistics plan with [number] food producers in high-need markets to ensure sufficient lead-time so that critical supplies arrive in time and at a reasonable cost
Provide favorable International Commercial Terms and extended payment terms to [number] companies in high-need markets where external shocks have delayed or reduced income
Invest [number][currency] in development of more-affordable devices, rapid test kits for micronutrient analysis of fortified foods, digital tools for monitoring fortification levels, smart dosifiers, and/or inline analytical and data collection technologies
Invest [number] [currency] in R&D and supply chain innovations to improve combinability, stability, bioavailability, and affordability of fortificants
Invest [number] [currency] in optimization of multiple fortification technologies (e.g. salt), improving the cost-effectiveness of existing technologies (e.g. fortified rice kernels), and research into fortification of new food vehicles
Support [number] MSMEs through reduced prices or free-of-charge supplies of relevant ingredients, reagents, and equipment for food fortification

1 <https://iris.paho.org/bitstream/handle/10665.2/37201/COPPremixOperations.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>