



All the latest news from the Access to Nutrition Initiative!

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### **ATNI's Outlook on 2022**

ATNI is already well under way with continuing its work to drive further change towards better nutrition for all in 2022, including keeping companies accountable for their N4G commitments and monitoring impact of the N4G Investor Pledge [that were launched during the Nutrition Year of Action](#) at the [Tokyo Nutrition for Growth \(N4G\) Summit](#) in December 2021. In this newsletter, you will find the latest news about the ways in which ATNI is driving private sector accountability to address the global nutrition crisis as well as updates about the ATNI team.

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## ATNI's Work

### The Nutrition Business Monitor: case studies from Nigeria and Bangladesh

To support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the fight against malnutrition, ATNI started developing the Nutrition Business Monitor (NBM) in partnership with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) in 2019. The NBM is a voluntary self-assessment tool which aims to evaluate SMEs' performance on their commitments and practices related to increasing the affordability and accessibility of nutritious foods and beverages in their respective markets. During the last week of February and first week of March, members of the ATNI team traveled to Abuja and Lagos, Nigeria and Dhaka, Bangladesh. During their stay, they met with partners, GAIN and SBN, and stakeholders to wrap up the project, share outcomes of testing the NBM and explore whether there is interest for next steps to use the tool.

Interviews were held with two SMEs in each country that participated in tool testing and capacity building workshops. The interviews aimed to gauge the overall experience of companies, to identify whether they improved their knowledge of nutrition-sensitive business practices and could implement any of the key learnings. Responses were shared as case studies on ATNI's [website](#), drawing attention to success stories, alongside an [open-access toolkit](#) for all interested companies to download and use. These will also be exhibited in the project's final report [to be published](#).

ATNI presented final outputs and launched the open-access NBM toolkit during the project's global webinar on March 16<sup>th</sup>. A full recording of the webinar is available [here](#).

### Action research on large scale food fortification

In March, ATNI's Research Director, Mark Wijne, and Program Manager, Aurélie Reynier, travelled to India to meet with local stakeholders to discuss the state of large-scale food fortification (LSFF) in the country and the role food companies are playing. The trip is part of a scoping exercise focusing on two countries - India and Nigeria – where ATNI has previously carried out research projects. The scoping exercise will provide a better understanding of the components of food fortification value chains in these countries and identify how companies can contribute to tackling micronutrient deficiency through food fortification.

The LSFF team met with project partners, including the Food Fortification Resource Centre (hosted by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, PATH, and Nutrition International. To gain an understanding of the private sector's role in Food fortification, the team met with businesses including JVS Foods in Jaipur and Bhawani Silicate, who produce fortified products. Further, ATNI met with civil society partner Consumer Voice to discuss ongoing efforts and challenges for food fortification in India, and UNICEF to discuss a strategic focus on fortification.

The findings of the consultations will help establish the role that ATNI can play in private sector activities in the Food Fortification value chain to drive positive change in fighting micronutrient deficiencies. A trip to Nigeria will be organized in April to further gain input from stakeholders.

### **NEW: Model policy on the marketing of breast-milk substitutes (BMS)**

ATNI, with the technical support of [WHO](#), [UNICEF](#), [Helen Keller International](#) and [Save the Children](#) has developed a [model policy to guide companies on the marketing of breast-milk substitutes \(BMS\)](#). The model policy consolidates the latest requirements around BMS marketing to date to guide BMS manufacturers in fully implementing and complying with the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and all subsequent World Health Assembly resolutions in policy and practice.

BMS manufacturers can refer to this model policy when revising or developing their own policies on BMS marketing. If a company applies the model policy in full, this would ensure that BMS products are appropriately marketed in line with international standards and public health guidance to protect the health of infants and young children globally.

### **A framework for institutional investor engagement on nutrition, diets and health**

After the publication of the fourth iteration of the [Global Index](#) in July 2021, a sub-group of the 76 [ATNI Investor Signatories](#) started an 18-month long collaborative investor engagement with the 20 publicly listed companies assessed by ATNI in the Index. In December 2021, at the Nutrition for Growth Summit, the group also [called on governments and companies to support a global shift to healthy packaged food](#) and [pledged to use the Investor Expectations on Nutrition, Diets and Health in their research and engagement activities](#).

This collaborative investor engagement program, facilitated by ATNI and led by investors, will continue until the end of 2022, when ATNI will draft an impact report which will also serve as the monitoring mechanism of the N4G Investor Pledge.

In the second quarter of 2022, ATNI will facilitate a new collaborative investor engagement program, which will see interested investors engage with the retailers assessed in the UK Retailer Index 2022.

To learn more about existing investor initiatives on nutrition, diets and health, read the eight case studies included in ATNI's [Institutional Investor Approaches to Addressing Nutrition, Diets and Health](#), intended to help readers understand the pivotal role that institutional investors play in driving better corporate performance on nutrition and health.

## UK Retailer Index 2022

The Access to Nutrition UK Retailer Index 2022 is the result of ATNI's [partnership with ShareAction](#), which started in 2019 with the publication of the [UK Product Profile](#), and continued with the publication of the [UK Supermarket Spotlight](#) in 2020 and of the second [UK Product Profile](#) in 2021.

This Index assesses the 11 largest food retail chains in the United Kingdom, the same 10 assessed in the UK Supermarket Spotlight, namely ALDI UK, Asda, Co-op, Iceland, Lidl GB, Marks & Spencer, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Waitrose – plus the rapidly growing online-only retailer Ocado – which together hold over [96% of the UK grocery market share](#).

The UK food environment has seen significant changes in recent times – from the announcement of new regulatory measures to restrict advertising of foods high in fat, salt and sugar to the publication of the National Food Strategy. It is thus in this evolving context that the UK Retailer Index 2022 will be published, shining light on what retailers are doing to tackle local nutrition challenges as well as where they can improve.

The [methodology](#) for the Index was published in 2021. Currently, the ATNI team is finalizing research and writing process, and the Index will be published in May 2022.

## US Index 2022

ATNI's US Index aims to assess 11 major US food and beverage companies' efforts to promote healthy, affordable diets and is planned to be published in 2022.

This marks the second iteration of the Index, with the first one being published in 2018, which can be accessed [here](#). ATNI's purpose in publishing the Index is to encourage the companies assessed to increase US consumers' access to nutritious products and responsibly exercise their influence on consumers' choice and behaviour. This is relevant now more than ever given the significant impact COVID-19 has had on the US food system (also explored in ATNI's [COVID-19 report series](#)).

Following a methodology review and consultations with the Expert Group and subject specialists in the last month, the research process is currently well underway. Publication for this Index is planned for later this year.

## ATNI Activities and Publications

### Q1 2022

- Consultations for the BMS / CF Marketing Index Methodology review
- Consultations for the India Index Methodology review
- Country visits to Nigeria and Bangladesh with stakeholders of the Nutrition Business Monitor
- Action research on large-scale food fortification (LSFF)
- Ongoing Global Index 2021 collaborative investor engagement

### Q2 2022

- UK Retailer Index 2022
- Consultations for the BMS / CF Marketing Index Methodology review
- Consultations for the India Index Methodology review
- Action research on large-scale food fortification (LSFF)
- Publication of results of the research monitoring industrial trans fat usage across 11 companies
- Ongoing Global Index 2021 collaborative investor engagement
- [US Index 2022](#)

### Q3 2022

- Consultations for the Global Index Methodology review
- BMS / CF Marketing Index Methodology review
- India Index research
- BMS research and in-country assessments
- Ongoing Global Index 2021 collaborative investor engagement

### Q4 2022

- India Index research
- Finalization of the Global Index Methodology
- BMS research and in-country assessments
- End of the Global Index 2021 collaborative investor engagement
- Consultations for the first Nigeria Spotlight Index

## The Access to Nutrition Team

Since its inception in 2013, the Access to Nutrition Initiative has been growing rapidly. The increasing number and diversity of research projects undertaken by ATNI has led to a growing team of talented professionals dedicated to ATNI's mission to improve diets for all.

In the last quarter of 2021, Inge Kauer, current Executive Director at ATNI, announced that she decided to move on to new opportunities. She supports the board on the search for a new ED and will help with a seamless transition.

In February 2021, Laura Trijsburg and Jayne Hulsebosch joined the ATNI team as Senior Research Analyst and Management Assistant, respectively.

If you are interested in ATNI's work, please follow our [website](#).

Find more about ATNI's team [here](#).

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### **Improving nutrition for all**

Driving the private sector's performance on healthy, affordable diets.

### **For more information:**

Please visit [www.accesstonutrition.org](http://www.accesstonutrition.org) contact [info@accesstonutrition.org](mailto:info@accesstonutrition.org)

Access to Nutrition Initiative is an independent non-profit organization based in the Netherlands, dedicated to objectively assessing and improving the contribution the private sector makes to addressing global nutrition challenges. The Foundation hosts the Access to Nutrition Index. The aim of ATNI is to encourage companies to both increase access to healthy products and also to responsibly exercise their influence on consumers' choice and behavior.

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