

Darsh's Specifications

Regional Headquarters

Tanzania

Global Headquarters

N/A

Market Share Range¹

0% - 5%

Type of Ownership

Private (primary owner: Mala Pandit)

Categories assessed in Product Profile

Flour, Sauces, Dips and Condiments, Sweet Spreads

Important - The findings of this Index rely to a large extent on the information shared by companies, in addition to what is found in the public domain. In the case of limited, to no engagement by the companies, this assessment may not represent the full extent of their efforts.

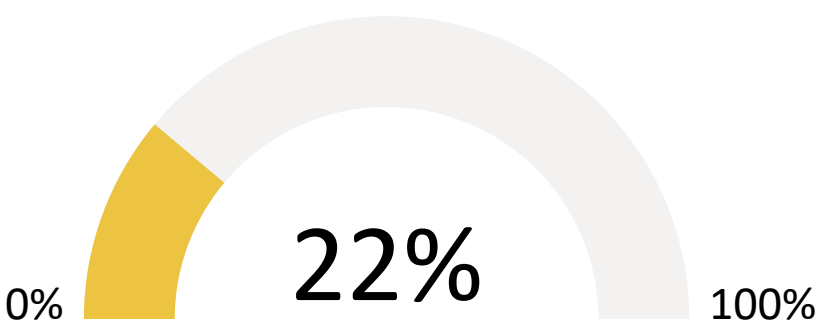
Footnote:

1. Euromonitor International, Staple Foods Industry edition, 2022

Overall Product Profile Results

The results below show the percentage of "healthier" products, or products passing the model's criteria, for the company's overall portfolio, as assessed by different nutrient profiling models.

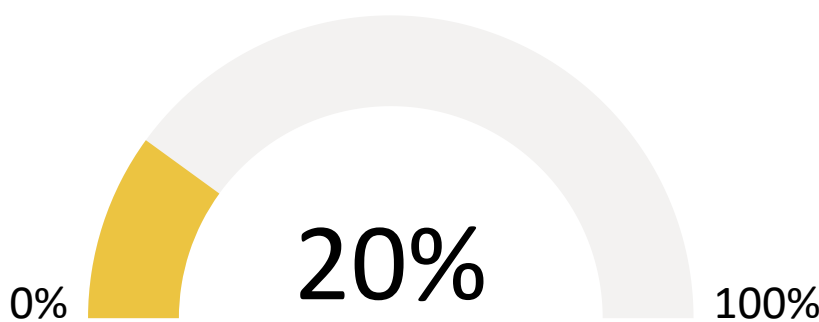
% products meeting WHO AFRO eligibility criteria



Out of **9** products assessed across all ATNi applicable categories, 22% meet the **WHO AFRO** eligibility criteria for marketing to children.

The **WHO AFRO model** is designed for use by WHO African Region Member States, this model supports policies to restrict food marketing to children. It categorizes products into 25 categories and applies nutrient thresholds per 100g/mL. Products must meet all thresholds to be eligible for marketing. Results are binary: 'marketing permitted' or 'marketing not permitted'.

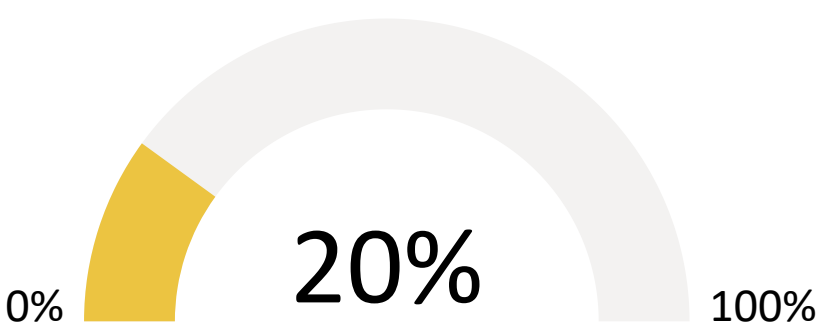
% healthier products - HSR



Out of **10** products assessed across all ATNi applicable categories, 20% are considered healthier based on **the HSR model** and healthier threshold of 3.5 stars or above.

The **Health Star Rating (HSR)** is a front-of-pack interpretive nutrition labelling system designed to help consumers make healthier choices. It scores products from 0.5 (least healthy) to 5 stars (most healthy), based on nutrients to limit (energy, sodium, total sugar, saturated fat) and positive food components (fruit/vegetable content, protein, fiber) on the basis of nutritional composition per 100g or 100mL across one of six categories. Products scoring 3.5 stars or higher are considered 'healthier'. ATNi uses the HSR in its Global Index and Country Spotlight Indexes to enable cross-company comparisons.

% healthier products - mHSR + micronutrients



Out of **10** products assessed across all ATNi applicable categories, 20% are considered healthier based on **mHSR+ micronutrient model**.

The **mHSR + micronutrients (HSR+) model** was developed by The George Institute in collaboration with ATNi. The HSR+ model builds on the original HSR by incorporating six key micronutrients: iron, vitamin A, vitamin B12, vitamin D, folic acid, and iodine. This allows for better differentiation of products based on micronutrient content.

Findings

☐ Nutrition strategy

While the company's website includes reference to ensuring everyone has access to 'premium yet affordable products', and evidence was found of the company voluntarily fortifying some products in their portfolio and selling in affordable pack sizes, no supporting evidence was found in the public domain of a strategy to improve the nutritional impact of its products or commercial operations.

☐ Oversight and accountability

No information was found regarding the governance of Darsh's nutrition-related activities, such as Board review and executive accountability.

Recommendations

☐ Nutrition strategy

Darsh is recommended to assess how it can improve the impact of its commercial activities on public health and publish a clear commercial strategy to contribute to healthier and more nutritious diets in Tanzania.

☐ Healthy sales target and reporting

The company is encouraged to develop and publish a specific, measurable, and timebound target to increase sales of products that meet a definition of 'healthier' according to formal nutrition standards in Tanzania such as the Food-Based Dietary Guidelines for a Healthy Population, and report on the percentage of its sales derived from such products. Ideally the company would adopt an internationally recognized NPM for this purpose, such as the HSR, Nutri-Score, or WHO Regional Model for Africa.

☐ Strategy reporting

The company should consider publicly reporting on the implementation of each aspect of its nutrition strategy, showing annual progress on meeting set targets (including those outlined in subsequent categories). Reporting should ideally take the form of quantitative metrics, documented in a systematic manner.

☐ Board oversight

To ensure that the nutrition strategy is prioritized and implemented systematically across the company's operations, the company is recommended to have its Board of Directors review progress against the strategy on at least an annual basis.

☐ Executive accountability and remuneration

The company is also encouraged to assign formal responsibility for the implementation and success of the nutrition strategy to the CEO, or another senior-level executive, and ideally linking their executive remuneration to at least one of the nutrition strategy's targets or metrics.

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Findings	Recommendations
Targets for nutrients of concern No information was found in the public domain that the company has made progress or put targets in place to reduce levels of key nutrients of concern (sodium, free/total sugars, saturated fats, and industrially produced trans fats (iTfAs)). Targets for positive ingredients No information was found in the public domain that the company has made progress or put targets in place to increase levels of minimally processed fruits, vegetables, nuts, and legumes (FVNL) and whole grains in its applicable portfolio.	Targets for nutrient of concern Darsh is encouraged to identify products or categories that are high in nutrients of concern (sodium, free/total sugars and saturated fats) and publish specific, measurable, and time-bound targets for reducing levels of these nutrients across all relevant product categories. Elimination of industrially produced trans fats (iTfAs) The company is advised to publish a policy to eliminate or reduce levels of iTfAs in the portfolio in line with the WHO recommendation of <2g iTFA per 100g of fats and oils by a specific year. If already achieved, the company could specify how it prevents the reintroduction of trans fats in its portfolio. Targets for positive ingredients Darsh is encouraged to publish targets to increase levels of minimally processed fruits, vegetables, nuts, and legumes (FVNL) and whole grains in all applicable product categories. Reformulation reporting The company is encouraged to publicly report on annual progress against reformulation targets using quantitative metrics.

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Findings

☐ Fortified products

Of the 20 products produced by Darsh that were identified for ATNi’s Product Profile, 2 were classified as fortified (using ingredient lists), and only 1 product had micronutrient quantities available. The voluntary fortified products were in the sauces, dips and condiments category; and have a HSR 'healthiness' score of 0,5 and 4,0 respectively.

☐ Fortification policy

Nutrition information on BOP labelling indicates that Darsh fortifies their Redgold tomato paste with Vitamin A, and this was confirmed by the company. This is a positive example of a company that voluntarily fortifies packaged processed food and makes it widely-available in Tanzania in small packages, which are affordable for low income consumers. No indication that the company has a policy to only fortify products that meet a definition of ‘healthier’ according to formal nutrition criteria was found in the public domain.

Recommendations

☐ Disclosure of micronutrient information

Darsh is recommended to specify- in full- the micronutrient content (inherent and if fortified) of its products on back-of-pack nutrition labels, including when fortified staples are used as ingredients using standardized measurement units.

☐ Fortification policy

Darsh is advised to develop and publish a fortification policy that includes explicit commitments to follow the CODEX CAC/GL 9-1987 and/or the WHO/FAO ‘Guidelines on Food Fortification with Micronutrients’ as per standards set out by the Tanzania government, and to only fortify products that meet the nutrition criteria of an NPM or when required by law.

☐ Quality and control

The company is encouraged to publish its quality control or assurance methods to determine whether the levels of micronutrient(s) are sufficient in the final product

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Findings

☐ Nutrient profiling

No information was found in the public domain indicating that the company uses a nutrient profiling model (NPM) to define and report on the healthiness of its product portfolio.

Recommendations

☐ Reporting on portfolio healthiness

The company is encouraged to measure and publicly report the percentage of its sales which are derived from products classified as ‘healthier’ according to Tanzania's Food-Based Dietary Guidelines for a Healthy Population or ideally an internationally recognized NPM such as the HSR, Nutri-Score or WHO Regional Model for Africa.

☐ Transparency of NPM application

The company should be transparent about how the nutrition criteria or NPM was applied to its portfolio, specifying which product categories are included and how the products are categorized.

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Findings

☐ Affordable nutrition strategy

While Darsh’s RedGold website states “everyone deserves access to premium yet affordable products, [a philosophy that] anchors our values and mission, making RedGold a household name,” and there is evidence that the company sells its products in affordable pack sizes, it is unclear whether the company has a strategy to improve the affordability of its ‘healthy’ products through its standard commercial operations.

Recommendations

☐ Affordable nutrition strategy

Darsh is encouraged to adopt and publish a strategy to ensure that it offers products that meet a definition of ‘healthier’ according to the Food-Based Dietary Guidelines for a Healthy Population or ideally an internationally recognized NPM such as the HSR, Nutri-Score, or WHO Regional Model for Africa, that are priced affordably for low-income consumers in Tanzania.

☐ Defining ‘affordability’

The company is encouraged to use a formal classification of ‘low-income consumers’ that is Tanzania-specific, based on data published by the National Bureau of Statistics Tanzania, for example, to guide the strategy.

☐ Relative affordability

The company could consider measuring the price differential between ‘healthier’ products relative to products that do not meet formal nutrition criteria, and work on improving the differential between them.

☐ Reporting on progress

Darsh is advised to report quantitatively on its progress to improve the price differential between ‘healthier’ and ‘less healthy’ products across its whole portfolio.

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Findings

- ☐ **Responsible marketing to children**
No information on whether Darsh has committed to market its products responsibly to children in Tanzania was found in the public domain.

Recommendations

- ☐ **Responsible marketing to children**
Darsh is encouraged to adopt and publish a responsible marketing policy to ensure that it does not market ‘less healthy’ products to children in Tanzania.
- ☐ **Product restrictions for marketing to children**
Ideally, the company’s responsible marketing to children policy would include a commitment not market products to children at all, or only those products meeting the criteria of an internationally recognized NPM such as the HSR, Nutri-Score, or WHO Regional Model for Africa.
- ☐ **Age threshold**
A ‘child’ should be defined as those up to the age of 18, as per the Children’s Act of 2009.
- ☐ **Marketing policy scope**
Darsh is recommended to explicitly apply its responsible marketing policy to a comprehensive range of media channels and techniques identified in the WHO Guidelines on this topic. These include all digital, broadcast and print media (e.g. TV, radio, and newspapers, paid ads on third-party websites, social media and apps), and techniques such as celebrity endorsements, sponsorships, and toys, premiums, vouchers, and giveaways that appeal to children under 18.
- ☐ **Audience threshold**
Darsh is encouraged to apply an audience threshold of >25% on measured media to determine whether a channel is considered ‘child-directed’.
- ☐ **Auditing compliance**
The company could consider commissioning an independent third-party audit of its responsible marketing commitments in Tanzania, covering a wide range of media channels and marketing techniques, and publish the results.
- ☐ **Marketing to general audiences**
Darsh is recommended to explicitly state that it adheres to the ICC Framework for Responsible Food & Beverage Marketing Communications in its responsible marketing policy.

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Findings

☐ Workforce nutrition program

No information was found in the public domain indicating that the company offers healthy food at work, nutrition education, nutrition-focused health checks, and/or breastfeeding support for its employees, nor paid primary or secondary caregiver leave beyond legal requirements in Tanzania.

Recommendations

☐ Workforce nutrition program

Darsh is recommended to develop a comprehensive workforce nutrition program which is available to all employees (including at manufacturing sites) in Tanzania, which includes healthy food at work, nutrition education, nutrition-focused health checks, and breastfeeding support. Engaging with the Workforce Nutrition Alliance (WNA) and utilizing its self-assessment scorecards would be a good first step in this regard.

☐ Healthy Food at Work

The company is encouraged to increase employees’ access to healthy and safe foods at work through direct provision, food subsidies, or by increasing the availability of healthy food options. These food options should include nutrition criteria and be revised by an independent nutrition professional.

☐ Nutrition Education

The company is recommended to increase employees’ knowledge of healthy nutrition by providing education materials selected and revised by an independent nutrition professional.

☐ Nutrition-focused Health Checks

The company is recommended to offer employees periodic, one-to-one meetings with a health or nutrition professional to assess the employee’s nutritional health.

☐ Breastfeeding Support

The company is encouraged to offer paid maternity leave of at least six months (as recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO)) and paid secondary caregiver leave beyond legal requirements. The company can further support breastfeeding mothers in its workforce by providing breastfeeding facilities in the workplace, that include: 1) private, hygienic, safe rooms to express breastmilk; 2) paid breaks to express breastmilk; 3) refrigerators to store breastmilk; and 4) other flexible working arrangements to support breastfeeding mothers.

☐ Reporting on implementation

The company is also encouraged to set and publicly report against outcome-focused targets or key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure progress on implementing the workforce nutrition program.

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Findings

☐ Health and nutrition claims

No information was found in the public domain of a commitment to only place health and nutrition claims on products that meet a definition of ‘healthy’ according to the formal nutrition criteria of an NPM.

Recommendations

☐ Health and nutrition claims

The company is advised to commit to refrain from using nutrition or health claims on products that are not considered ‘healthier’ according to the Food-Based Dietary Guidelines for a Healthy Population or ideally the formal nutrition criteria of an NPM.

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Product Profile Results

The Product Profile for EAMA Tanzania provides a structured evaluation of the nutritional composition of packaged food and beverage products from major manufacturers. It employs a range of internationally recognized nutrient profiling models to assess product characteristics, including the Australasian Health Star Rating (HSR), a modified version of HSR including micronutrients (mHSR+ micronutrients), and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa (WHO-AFRO) model. These models support a consistent and comparative analysis of portfolio healthiness across the market.

Proportion of "healthier" products, or products passing the model's criteria, per NPM

Category	% healthier products: HSR	% healthier products: mHSR+ micronutrient	% products meeting WHO AFRO eligibility criteria
Sauces, Dips and Condiments	20% (1/5)	20% (1/5)	25% (1/4)
Sweet Spreads	25% (1/4)	25% (1/4)	20% (1/5)
Flour	0% (0/1)	0% (0/1)	

This table presents an overview of the nutritional quality of products across various food categories, based on three different nutrient profiling models. Each row corresponds to a specific food category, and the percentages reflect the share of products in that category meeting the respective model’s criteria. The figures in parentheses indicate the number of products meeting the criteria over the total assessed. Blank cells indicate that data was not available or not applicable for that category and model.

Mean HSR by category

