

# BASF SE's Overview

## Overall Performance

### BASF's Profile

Headquarter Germany	Parent Company BASF SE
Supplies for LSFF <sup>1</sup> Yes	Type of Ownership Public
Supplies in India/Kenya? India, Kenya	Millers for Nutrition Partner Yes
Supplies in other markets? Data unknown	
Micronutrient/premix applications Bouillon Cubes, Condiments, Confectionery, Dairy, Edible Oil, Emergency and Therapeutic Foods, Flour, Premix, Rice, Sprinkles, Sugar	
Fortificant Production Site Locations (Nr. of GPF-certified sites out of total sites) <sup>2</sup> Denmark (1 out of 1 site) Germany (Unknown)	

Footnotes:

1. Large-scale food fortification

2. The company has at least 1 GPF-certified site globally

### Overall Performance



Company engagement: Partial Engagement

**Important** - The findings of this Assessment regarding companies’ performance and their profile rely to a large extent on information shared by companies, in addition to information that is available in the public domain. Several factors beyond the companies’ control may impact the availability of information. Therefore, in the case of limited or no engagement by such companies, this Assessment may not represent the full scope of their efforts or their profiles.

### Company's performance across 4 thematic categories



● Relevant information found was fully disclosed

ⓘ Relevant information found partially disclosed (i.e. some information is confidential)

○ Relevant information was fully confidential



# BASF's overview

## Commercial Nutrition Strategy Analysis

### Findings

☐ **Commitments to address nutrition**

BASF acknowledges its role in addressing malnutrition and global public health challenges through broad statements on its website and in its 2024 Annual Report. The report highlights BASF’s contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), by supplying ingredients for fortifying staple foods to combat micronutrient deficiencies worldwide.

According to its website, BASF operates in more than 40 countries, collaborating in multi-stakeholder alliances to ensure sustainable impact through its product solutions, technical assistance, scientific expertise, and partnership building.

However, BASF does not clearly indicate whether these efforts are embedded within a structured corporate strategy supported by specific, measurable, and time-bound targets.

☐ **Reporting on nutrition progress**

BASF’s 2024 Annual Report includes general sustainability disclosures covering environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance. However, it does not explicitly report measurable progress on nutrition-related commitments.

☐ **Nutrition governance**

BASF does not indicate whether its Board of Executive Directors holds formal accountability for reviewing and delivering activities to address malnutrition. Furthermore, no evidence was found that executive compensation is explicitly linked to the performance of nutrition-related commitments.

☐ **Responsible sales of fortificants**

In its product brochures, BASF discloses that it markets fortificants for confectionery, amongst other food applications. The company does not demonstrate a clear prioritization of fortificant sales for products considered healthier by national or international public health authorities, relative to total sales in market-driven food fortification.

☐ **Nutrition-related business risks**

BASF outlines its global risk management framework in its Annual Report, identifying risks such as supply chain disruptions and regulatory and policy changes. However, BASF did not provide additional information to demonstrate that nutrition is explicitly recognized as a material risk to the business.



# BASF's overview

## Commercial Nutrition Strategy Analysis

### Recommendations

☐ **Commitments to address nutrition**

BASF is encouraged to assess all aspects of its business operations that could positively impact public health and nutrition, and establish specific, measurable and time-bound commitments to act on these opportunities.

To strengthen transparency and accountability, the company should embed these commitments within a clear and cohesive nutrition strategy that aligns with its core business objectives and is publicly disclosed on its website. By more formally integrating nutrition and fortification efforts into its corporate responsibility agenda, BASF could better leverage its commercial operations and broader initiatives to enhance its contribution to public health and nutrition. This approach would also position nutrition as a central component of the company’s value proposition and long-term sustainability.

☐ **Reporting on nutrition progress**

To strengthen accountability, transparency and recognition, BASF is encouraged to regularly track and publicly report progress on its nutrition-related commitments and strategy against clear, well-defined quantitative metrics.

☐ **Nutrition governance**

BASF is encouraged to establish governance structures—such as board-level reviews—supported by clearly assigned responsibilities from executive staff and accountability mechanisms (e.g. linking progress to remuneration) to ensure effective delivery progress of its nutrition-related targets.

☐ **Responsible sales of fortificants**

To support healthier diets, BASF is encouraged to prioritize fortificant sales for use in healthier products that align with national and international public health guidance—particularly in market-driven fortification beyond government-mandated staple food fortification. This includes stimulating fortification in products that contribute positively to nutritional outcomes and refraining from promoting the fortification of less healthy products that are high in sugar, salt, or unhealthy fats.

By aligning its sales strategy and customer engagement with public health goals, BASF could help ensure that fortification efforts contribute meaningfully to improved nutrition and long-term health outcomes.

☐ **Nutrition-related business risks**

To strengthen its risk management framework, BASF is encouraged to explicitly assess and disclose whether nutrition constitutes a material risk within its overall risk portfolio. This should include evaluating potential impacts on business operations, reputation, regulatory compliance, and long-term sustainability.

Publicly reporting on such risks would align with corporate governance best practices, demonstrate a proactive stance on public health, and strengthen accountability to shareholders and stakeholders.



# BASF's overview

## Engagement with Customers and Distributors Analysis

### Findings

☐ **Technical support to customers**

BASF’s global website states that the company provides training to both private-and public-sector partners—particularly small and medium-sized millers—to strengthen their technical capacity for fortifying staple foods. It also highlights close collaboration with customers to ensure appropriate technical setups.

One of the training topics covers processing conditions for end-products. The company also explained that it collects information on government regulations related to labelling and micronutrient specifications of fortified foods to guide the development of market-appropriate fortificants. For staple food fortification, BASF notes that end-product composition is typically consistent, so detailed composition data is generally not requested from customers.

However, BASF did not provide evidence that its technical support is delivered systematically through a structured implementation plan with defined targets.

☐ **Instructions on proper handling and use of fortificants**

Safety Data Sheets for BASF’s human nutrition products, including fortificants, are available on the company's website. BASF confirmed that these documents are intended for both customers and product distributors.

While the sheets include guidance on product handling and storage—such as incompatible materials and recommended storage conditions—they do not provide instructions on the correct use of fortificants to adequately fortify foods, such as target addition rates.

### Recommendations

☐ **Technical support to customers**

To strengthen its support for effective fortification practices, BASF is encouraged to develop a structured technical assistance plan with measurable targets or key performance indicators. This would ensure consistent and systematic support for all customers, through training, research and development, and other forms of guidance.

In addition, in line with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Code of Practice for Food Premix Operations, BASF is encouraged to collect detailed information on both the fortificant and the intended end-product. This should include micronutrient specifications, processing conditions, packaging, labelling, and shelf life of the end-product. Gathering such data helps ensure that fortificants are appropriately formulated to meet specific customer needs and national fortification regulations and dietary requirements.

The company is encouraged to publicly disclose on its website the support it provides for effective fortification, along with related outcomes, to strengthen transparency, accountability, and recognition.

☐ **Instructions on proper handling and use of fortificants**

To support effective fortification practices, BASF is encouraged to provide—along with instructions on the appropriate handling and storage of fortificants—additional instructions to customers on proper fortificant use, ensuring these are aligned with recognized guidance such as the PAHO Code of Practice for Food Premix Operations.

To ensure product integrity and accountability, the company should explicitly reference fortificant handling and storage instructions in formal distributor agreements. This would help prevent mishandling that could compromise product quality.



# BASF's overview

## Nutrition-Sensitive Activities Analysis

### Findings

☐ **Nutrition-sensitive activities**

BASF reports providing technical training in more than 40 countries through its partnerships and is a strategic fortification partner of Millers for Nutrition (M4N). According to its website, the company supports both public- and private-sector training to build the capacity of small- and medium-scale millers in staple food fortification.

BASF informed ATNi of an internal strategy guiding the geographic scope of its technical assistance; however, no supporting evidence was provided.

The company also states on its website that it opened a micronutrient testing laboratory in 2019 in Lagos, Nigeria, to support regulators in advancing the country’s food fortification agenda and to help small- and medium-scale enterprises comply with vitamin A requirements in fortified edible oil, flour, and sugar.

However, no information was found in the public domain, nor was shared by the company, to demonstrate that these activities are guided by clearly structured implementation plans with measurable targets.

### Recommendations

☐ **Nutrition-sensitive activities**

To strengthen its role in advancing global fortification efforts and ensure meaningful impact through its partnerships, BASF is encouraged to jointly develop structured implementation plans with clear, measurable targets that are aligned with public health priorities and the company’s strategic objectives.

Transparency and accountability could be strengthened by publishing details of these partnerships—through annual reports or the company website—including implementation plans, progress metrics and outcomes. This would demonstrate commitment while highlighting the shared value and collective impact achieved.



## BASF's overview

### Workforce Nutrition Analysis

#### Findings

##### Workforce nutrition programme

No evidence of a formal workforce nutrition programme was found.

Nutrition-focused health checks: BASF describes its Global Health Promotion Program on its website as aimed at supporting employee well-being. As part of the programme, the company states that it organizes a worldwide health campaign each year with a new prevention topic.

However, no information was found or shared on the focus of recent campaigns or whether these include nutrition-related topics.

In addition, BASF reports on its website and in its latest Annual Report that, under the Global Health Promotion Program, it offers regular individual health checks for employees worldwide, including pre-diabetes screenings.

##### Breastfeeding support in the workplace

BASF offers free breastmilk shipping for employees in the United States who are relocating, travelling for business, or involved in a surrogacy arrangement. The service includes a pharmaceutical-grade cooler, breastmilk storage bags, and FedEx Priority Overnight shipping labels.

However, the company did not provide information or clarification to ATNi on whether this service extends to both office and manufacturing employees, or whether it is offered in other markets where the company operates. It is also unclear if additional breastfeeding support is provided, such as dedicated breaks, lactation rooms, or refrigerators to store breastmilk.

##### Paid maternity and secondary caregiver leave

BASF states on its website that it has established a Group-wide standard for maternity protection of a minimum of fourteen weeks of maternity leave with at least six weeks taken after delivery. In some countries, the company provides maternity protection that exceeds local statutory regulations. For example, in the United States, where no federal paid leave is mandated, BASF offers eight weeks of paid parental leave to maternal, paternal or adoptive parents, in addition to six to eight weeks of paid maternity leave for new mothers.

#### Recommendations

##### Workforce nutrition programme

BASF is encouraged to build on its current efforts to support employee health by developing a more cohesive workforce nutrition programme that addresses healthy food at work, nutrition education, and nutrition-focused health checks, with clear goals and objectives. Each pillar should include multiple elements. Practical guidance is available in the Workforce Nutrition Alliance guidebook series. Such a programme should ideally be accessible to all employees, including those at manufacturing sites.

##### Breastfeeding support in the workplace

BASF is encouraged to further strengthen support to breastfeeding mothers at work—such as offering access to comfortable and private rooms for expressing breastmilk during paid breaks -in order to promote maternal and child health. BASF should also ensure that this support is provided consistently across all markets and equally to all employees at both office and manufacturing sites. These efforts should be publicly disclosed as part of a clear policy, as transparency not only demonstrates the company's commitment to employee well-being but also holds the company accountable, and encourage continuous improvement. Furthermore, it is important to foster a supportive workplace culture through breastfeeding awareness initiatives.

##### Paid maternity and secondary caregiver leave

The company is recommended to develop a comprehensive global policy offering at a minimum 18 weeks (International Labour Organization (ILO) recommendation) and ideally 26 weeks (World Health Organization, WHO) of paid maternity/primary caregiver leave consistently across all countries and for all employees, even where this goes beyond national regulatory requirements. The company is also encouraged to extend secondary caregiver leave to exceed current national regulations.