



Chris Hogg
Global Head of Public Affairs
Nestlé S.A.
Avenue Nestlé 55
1800 Vevey

**To Representatives of
Participating Organizations**
(See Appendix)

By e-mail

Vevey, 18 November, 2025

Response to Joint Communication to the Nestlé CEO

Dear Representatives of Participating Organizations,

Thank you for writing to our Chief Executive Officer Philipp Navratil regarding the recent report by Public Eye. He has asked me to reply on his behalf.

Nestlé's childhood nutrition portfolio reflects our ambition to address the nutritional needs and support the well-being of future generations. We are always open to constructive dialogue with stakeholders, especially where we share the goal of improving childhood nutrition.

We recognize the valuable role that civil society plays in advocating for child health and appreciate the opportunity to clarify our practices considering the seriousness of the assertions made.

We disagree with misleading assertions made in Public Eye's report on our infant cereals in Africa. At Nestlé we apply a consistent approach to nutrition globally, there are no double standards.

For several years, since well before Public Eye raised this issue, we have been reducing the levels of sugars in our infant cereals in response to consumer expectations. Today, we offer options with and without added sugars in Europe, Africa, and elsewhere. We've been accelerating the development and rollout of our 'no added sugar' variants. These options are already present in 97% of Nestlé markets. In Africa, these products are manufactured in our main infant cereal factories in Tema in Ghana, Harrismith in South Africa and in the 6th of October city in Egypt. We will reach 100% by year end.



In infant cereal recipes, sugars can come from ingredients like milk, cereals and fruit. Limited amounts can come from honey or refined sugars. All these types of sugars are listed and defined in international standards and in local regulations. We suspect that Public Eye's findings indiscriminately mix these different sources of sugars. If we exclude the sugars coming from cereals, milk, or fruits, none of our CERELAC products contain the levels of added refined sugars they claim. Unfortunately, Public Eye declined several invitations to meet with us to discuss the methodology used and the details of the products analyzed.

We provide transparent ingredient information and never mislead consumers. While recipes may vary by region, depending on the availability of raw materials and the preferences of local consumers, our added sugar threshold applies globally. It is well below the limits found in the Codex Alimentarius international food standards. This reflects our determination to go beyond regulatory requirements to ensure optimal early childhood nutrition. In addition, across Africa, and around the world, we always comply with local regulations. We reject the impression given in the Public Eye report that in Africa these regulations are not strong enough. This is not the case.

We are concerned that the misleading assertions in the Public Eye report may cause unnecessary confusion for parents. Our products are science-based, nutrient-rich, and designed to support children's growth and development, while helping contribute to addressing malnutrition. In Africa, where obesity affects 5% of children under five, undernutrition remains the most pressing challenge: 60% of children under five suffer from iron-deficiency anemia, and more than 30% of children under five are stunted, far above the global average. Undernutrition has severe short-term and long-term consequences, and Nestlé aims to be part of the solution.

Across all Nestlé markets, including in Africa, Nestlé draws on the expertise of nutritionists and health specialists to uphold the highest nutrition standards. We apply the same care to every child, everywhere.

Should you wish to discuss this further or require additional information, I would be pleased to help arrange a meeting with our experts at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Hogg
Global Head of Public Affairs
Nestlé SA



Appendix A: List of participating organizations:

League for Consumer Defence in Benin (LDCB), Benin
Benin Health and Consumers' Survival (BSSC), Benin
Consumers Association of Burundi (ABUCO), Burundi
Centre for Research and Education for Development (CREPD), Cameroon
Ivorian Consumers' Association (AIC), Ivory Coast
Moroccan Society for Nutrition, Health and the Environment (SMNSE), Morocco
Moroccan League for the Fight Against Diabetes (LMLCD), Morocco
Justiça Ambiental (JA!), Mozambique
Nutrition and Food Security Alliance of Namibia (NAFSAN), Namibia
Consumer Advocacy and Empowerment Foundation (CADEF), Nigeria
Association for the Defence of the Environment and Consumers (ADEC), Senegal
groundWork, Friends of the Earth South Africa, South Africa
Healthy Living Alliance (HEALA), South Africa
PRICELESS SA - SAMRC/Wits Centre for Health Economics and Decision Science, South Africa
Grow Great, South Africa
Children's Institute, South Africa
Togolese Consumers Association (ATC), Togo
HANEN Association for the Promotion of Breastfeeding, Tunisia
Safe Food, Zimbabwe
International Babyfood Action Network (IBFAN), Africa