Joint News Release

BASF and Beyond Suncare welcome WHO decision to list broad-spectrum sunscreen as “Essential Medicine”

Monheim am Rhein, Germany, and Madrid, Spain; November 11, 2025 – BASF and Beyond Suncare welcome the decision by the World Health Organization (WHO) to include broad-spectrum sunscreen with high SPF in the 24th edition of the Model List of Essential Medicines (EML) and the 10th edition of the Model List of Essential Medicines for Children (EMLc). The inclusion of broad-spectrum sunscreen in the WHO EML and EMLc follows an application submitted in November 2024 by the Global Albinism Alliance, in partnership with the United Nations Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of Human Rights by Persons with Albinism, the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Context of Climate Change, and esteemed collaborators and dedicated partners who presented a unified, evidence-based application to the WHO, including Beyond Suncare. The inclusion will encourage countries to prioritize sunscreen in their health systems, improving access and affordability.

“This landmark decision elevates the importance of sun protection for vulnerable populations. As we move forward, the collaboration between organizations, healthcare professionals, and advocates will be crucial in ensuring that everyone, especially those with albinism, can access the essential protection they deserve,” said Mafalda Soto, Executive Director of Beyond Suncare. “Together, we are not just protecting skin; we are safeguarding lives and promoting a future in which every individual can thrive under the sun.”

“The decision to list broad-spectrum sunscreens to the list of ‘Essential Medicine’ underlines the importance of safe and effective sun protection products. It empowers producers of sunscreens and UV-filter ingredients to promote and defend their products in an environment of changing regulations and rising skepticism from consumers,” said Dr Ulrich Issberner, Director Market Development Suncare at BASF.

Since 2014, BASF has been supporting the organization Beyond Suncare through expertise in developing and supplying ingredients for highly effective, customized sunscreens for people with albinism in sub-Saharan Africa. BASF's contributions include technical knowledge for creating formulations suited to the specific needs of people with albinism, such as water resistance and suitability for sensitive skin, and providing sun care ingredients at no cost. This partnership helps to protect individuals from skin cancer and promote a dignified life by ensuring access to essential sun protection.

Beyond Suncare is an international NGO based in Spain that advocates for the health rights and social inclusion of people with albinism in sub-Saharan African countries like Malawi, Rwanda, and Uganda. Since its inception, it has collaborated with national authorities and ministries to strengthen public health systems by training local workers and civil society organizations. Since 2017, the NGO's intervention model has been recognized as a "Best Practice" by the United Nations, highlighting its effectiveness and impact. Currently, Beyond Suncare supports over 4,000 people with albinism, of whom 48% are children and 51% are women. It has trained more than 600 healthcare professionals and organized over 800 clinics and workshops.

About BASF

At BASF, we create chemistry for a sustainable future. Our ambition: We want to be the preferred chemical company to enable our customers' green transformation. We combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. Around 112,000 employees in the BASF Group contribute to the success of our customers in nearly all sectors and almost every country in the world. Our portfolio comprises, as core businesses, the segments Chemicals, Materials, Industrial Solutions, and Nutrition & Care; our standalone businesses are bundled in the segments Surface Technologies and Agricultural Solutions. BASF generated sales of €65.3 billion in 2024. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchange in Frankfurt (BAS) and as American Depositary Receipts (BASFY) in the United States. Further information at www.basf.com.

About Beyond Suncare

Beyond Suncare is committed to protecting the health and dignity of all people with albinism. We are a social-health non-governmental organization that works with local communities to design innovative and sustainable solutions to change the lives of people with albinism. Beyond Suncare builds bridges, bringing together organizations and professionals from different fields to ensure comprehensive and scalable solutions that will lead to systemic change. Further information: https://beyondsuncare.org/en/.

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