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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AMELP	Activity Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan
CBV	Community-Based Volunteer
CC	Community Champions
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
CSLG	Community Savings and Loan Group
DNCC	District Nutrition Coordination Committee
D-WASHE	District Water Sanitation and Health Education
EHT	Environmental Health Technician
FP	Family Planning
GRZ	Government of the Republic of Zambia
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
MCDP II	1,000 Most Critical Days Program II
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MOH	Ministry of Health
NFNC	National Food and Nutrition Commission
ODF	Open Defecation-Free
PEA	Private Extension Agents
PNCC	Provincial Nutrition Coordination Committee
SAG	Sanitation Action Group
SBC	Social and Behavior Change
SMSG	SUN Mothers Support Groups
SUN TA	Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance
TWG	Technical Working Group
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
V-WASHE	Village Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance (SUN TA) Project Quarterly Progress Report (Q2 2021) covers activities implemented from April 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021.

The USAID SUN TA is a four-year (February 18, 2019 - February 17, 2023) contract (72061119C00002) with three additional options years for a total of seven (7) years between DAI Global, LLC and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The Scaling Up Nutrition Program is a cross-ministry and multi-donor initiative to reduce stunting in Zambia through implementation of the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) 1,000 Most Critical Days Program. USAID has contracted DAI Global, LLC to implement the USAID SUN TA Project as a way of contributing to the reduction of stunting among children under two years of age in Zambia.

Currently, SUN TA is implemented in 13 selected districts of Central Province (Kabwe, Mumbwa, Chibombo, Kapiri Mposhi), Copperbelt Province (Ndola, Kitwe), Luapula Province (Mansa, Samfya, Nchelenge), and Northern Province (Kasama, Mbala, Kaputa, Luwingu). SUN TA targets women of reproductive age 15 - 49 with at least one child under 2 years of age, and/or pregnant women. Also, the Project is targeting the SUN Program's most vulnerable households (a household that includes one or more of the following: a teenage pregnant woman, a pregnant woman with low MUAC (<21.0 cm), a woman with an infant under 6 months of age with recorded low birth weight, or a maternal mortality with surviving infant of under 6 months of age). To achieve the Project goal, USAID has identified two main objectives that address stunting:



Adequate Quantity and Quality of Dietary Intake Among Target Groups



Adequate Health Conditions for Biological Utilization of Nutrients

As part of the larger SUN effort, the USAID SUN TA Project provides technical assistance and direct implementation support to sub-national local government departments and staff in the selected districts to plan, implement, coordinate, and monitor integrated nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific activities aimed at significantly reducing the rate of stunting among Zambian children under two.

Further, SUN TA focuses implementation efforts using evidence-based interventions to increase access to and availability of safe, diverse, nutritious food; encourage the adoption of better child feeding and household hygiene practices; and increase access and use of improved health, water, and sanitation services. The Project prioritizes sustainability by improving both intra-household joint decision-making as well as capacity-building among local government and stakeholders including private sector to ensure coordination, accountability, social and behavior change, and learning replicating the Scaling Up Nutrition theory of change model.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During this quarter, the SUN TA Project made strong progress under each component and in all 13 target districts. Following are the most noteworthy and salient results from the quarter under review:

Agriculture & Livelihoods

SUN TA's Agriculture and Livelihoods component continued to increase access to diverse, nutritious vegetables and biofortified crops and markets, while also supporting agriculture financing and increased access to finance through savings groups. The Project established 298 new vegetable gardens (49 health facility and 249 community) to give mothers increased access to nutritious vegetables/crops during their visits to health facilities. Mothers can directly purchase garden produce or obtain an array of vegetables during cooking demonstrations held in the community, thereby increasing nutrient intake vital for stunting reduction.

Taking advantage of the harvest season, SUN TA held 26 field days across the 13 districts to showcase produce and share learning among farmers. Seed companies and agro-dealers took advantage of the events to engage with farmers and sell their products. During the quarter under review, the Project verified 1,065 hectares are under improved management practices with USG assistance, bringing the cumulative result to 1,713 hectares.

The value of agriculture-related financing accessed as a result of USG assistance came to ZMW 979,580 in Q2 2021, surpassing the annual target of ZMW 400,000 and inching closer to the life of project target of ZMW1,000,000. Access to finance and cumulative savings grew through the number of established CSLGs and enterprises, bringing the total amount saved year-to-date to over ZMW 8 million. The Project established 316 new CSLGs during the second quarter, bringing in more women and youth to benefit from productive resources key to improving their household income and livelihoods.

Private sector engagement expanded with Good Nature Agro (GNA) bringing onboard more soybean buyers. With SUN TA encouraging farmers to adopt a good credit culture, soybean farmers who benefitted from GNA financing have responded positively in loan repayment with nearly 70 percent of the loans repaid by the end of the quarter. Also, farmers were encouraged by yield increases from one metric tons per hectare (MT/ha) to 1.4 MT/ha in districts with GNA support while the other districts remained at 1 MT/ha. This has been largely attributed to use of certified seed, inoculant (NitroZam), and closer private extension support through the trained Private Extension Agents (PEAs).

Health & Nutrition

This quarter saw the formation of 2,188 SUN Mother Support Groups (SMSGs) across the 13 districts despite the reduction in activities toward the end of the quarter due to a surge in COVID-19. This brings the cumulative total of SMSGs to 4,878, with a membership of 70,548. SMSG members are registered and receive health and nutrition outreach and services such as sessions on maternal and infant and young child feeding, importance of antenatal care, exclusive breastfeeding, complementary sessions, and cooking demonstrations. Within the same period, 84,700 women

received individual or group counseling on maternal and/or child nutrition. This increased the cumulative result to 351,461 exceeding the life of project target of 130,000, ensuring more mothers are receiving critical information to prevent stunting in their children.

In Q2 2021, the number of community health workers providing family planning services came in at 628 against an annual target of 1,500. Further, there are 255 additional health facilities providing family planning counselling and/or service through the SUN TA trained community-based distributors (CBDs). As a result, the Project is reaching 29,516 clients with various community Family Planning interventions, such as orals, injectables and condoms. These efforts promote delay of first pregnancy and birth spacing, which encourage maternal readiness and recovery from previous pregnancies.

The number of pregnant women reached with nutrition-specific interventions through USG-supported programs was 8,220, surpassing the annual target of 6,500 and bringing the cumulative result to 18,094 against a life of project target of 25,640. Additionally, capacity-building for health facility staff and community-based volunteers (CBVs) in Early Childhood and Development commenced and a total of 410 (169 males, 241 female) health facility staff from 12 districts have been trained with a focus on supervisory and mentorship roles for CBVs. A total of 118 (35 males; 83 female) CBVs have been trained in implementation and integration of Early Childhood and Development activities into the SMSGs at community level.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

The water, sanitation and hygiene component made significant progress in meeting milestones in community-led total sanitation (CLTS) and access to clean, safe water. Under CLTS, 122 villages were certified open-defecation free (ODF), demonstrating the work that CBVs and community leaders such as headmen are doing in engaging households. Additionally, SUN TA established 812 Sanitation Action Groups (SAGs) in nine districts to strengthen and spread the CLTS work. At the community level, 70,474 households with a population of 309,188 built or upgraded their latrines to meet the adequacy parameters of smooth and cleanable floor, a lid to cover the drop hole, and a superstructure to provide privacy and a handwashing facility with soap and water. As a result, the Project has surpassed the year 3 (2021) target of 80,000 households with a cumulative total at 106,426 households.

As the third wave of COVID-19 continues to affect everyone in the supported districts, the Project continues to leverage its technical expertise to integrate and promote COVID-19 prevention measures throughout its WASH activities. An estimated 339,509 people in communities across the 13 districts received social and behavior change (SBC) messages aimed at encouraging desired sanitation and hygiene practices such as correct and consistent handwashing with clean water and soap at six critical times, hygienic and safe fecal disposal, and household water treatment and safe storage. To increase access to clean and safe water, communities in Chibombo, Ndola, Kitwe and Luwingu received 28 rehabilitated boreholes, thus benefitting 11,058 people. Further, 20 new boreholes were drilled and are now under construction in Luwingu, Kitwe, Nchelenge and Mumbwa districts, while another 65 were repaired by APMs, giving another 30,735 people access to clean, safe water.

Cross-Cutting Activities

Under each component, the Project has exceeded life of project targets and continues to make significant progress on annual targets during this quarter. For Q2 2021, the number of individuals receiving nutrition-related training through USG-supported programs is: 945 for Agriculture & Livelihoods (442 females, 503 males) against annual target of 1,530; 975 for Health & Nutrition (644 females, 331 males) against annual target of 1,834; and 2,024 for WASH (939 females, 1,085 males) against annual target of 1,800.

Component	Females	Males	Q2 2021 Cumulative	Annual Target
Agriculture & Livelihoods	442	503	945	1,530
Health & Nutrition	644	331	975	1,834
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	939	1,085	2,024	1,800

The Project held a Quarterly Review Meeting in May 2021 to take stock of achievements, challenges and agreed upon solutions. In communications, the Project supported the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC) to orient media houses in all 13 districts on the MCDP II with a view of increasing media coverage of nutrition issues. Under SBC, an implementation plan for the ‘SUN Happy Home’ campaign was developed, and initial activities included orienting Project staff on the SBC Strategy, its focus and planned activities. SUN TA was engaged in various national level SUN/MCDP II activities including organizing and participating in the SUN National Conference held in April and facilitated USAID Zambia monitoring visits to sites in Kabwe, Ndola and Kitwe

On the operations side, a new Director of Finance and Administration was hired and is working closely with the systems review consultant to reorganize finance and procurement systems to strengthen compliance, improve efficiency and gain greater value for money and time. The Field Operations Manual is also undergoing review to align it to the current SUN TA context.

This Quarterly Progress Report details second quarter achievements and milestones in greater detail, by component and cross-cutting area. It is followed by an overview of Key Issues and Challenges and Planned Activities for Q3 2021. The report is capped off by Annex A: Summary of Results; and Annex B: Success Stories collected during the quarter under review.

PROJECT RESULTS BY COMPONENT

Agriculture & Livelihoods

The Agriculture & Livelihoods component aims to increase access to safe and nutritious food through nutrition-sensitive agriculture and financial inclusion. To achieve increased access to safe and nutritious foods, SUN TA addresses household food, income and nutrition security through increased production, productivity and profitability of diverse (nutrient-dense) vegetables, legumes, field crops and livestock at community and household levels, using climate smart agricultural (CSA) practices. Financial inclusion is attained through community savings and loans groups linked with micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) development (creating an opportunity for alternative livelihoods) at the community level. In rolling out these interventions, SUN TA works with the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Ministry of

Commerce and Trade, Ministry of Community Development and Social Services structures from national, district, and community levels.

- Access to diverse nutritious foods:** The Project established 49 new health facility gardens as centers of excellence for learning and knowledge sharing in 12 of the 13 districts as follows: Kasama (6), Mbala (4), Kaputa (1), Luwingu (3), Nchelenge (7), Mansa (1), Samfya (14), Kitwe (2), Mumbwa (5), Chibombo (2), Kabwe (2) and Kapiri (2). This brings the number of health center gardens to 88 from 39 in the previous quarter, which is 70 percent of the 2021 target. Pregnant and lactating mothers accessed the vegetables during their health facility visits and during cooking demonstrations. SUN TA also has 249 more community gardens managed by 59 female and 190 males Lead Farmers, bringing the cumulative number of community gardens to 480. These health center and community gardens have so far motivated 244 households (Nchelenge 11, Mansa 34, Kabwe 50, Kasama 40, Kapiri Mposhi 10, Luwingu 2, Ndola 70, Kitwe 27), especially members of SUN Mother Support Groups, to establish their own gardens to increase access to nutritious foods.
- Lead Farmer community extension services:** Provision of community level extension services is key to increasing knowledge and adoption of improved farming techniques among farmers, and in turn increased productivity. A total of 345 (102 female and 243 male) active Lead Farmers provided extension services to 3,645 (1,968 female, 1,677 males) Follower Farmers who are applying improved management practices and technologies. These farmers collectively have 1,713 hectares of land under improved management practices and technologies, including the use of certified seed, integrated pest management (IPM), minimum tillage, crop rotation, mulching, composting, weed control and farmer managed natural regeneration. This brings the total hectarage to 1,713 against the annual target of 2,450 (70 percent of the annual target).
- Farmer field days:** To enhance practical learning, 26 Lead Farmers in the 13 districts each hosted a field day to share their experiences and results from the various technologies they applied which included minimum tillage, timely land preparation and planting, use of certified seed, weed control, use of inoculants and organic fertilizers, IPM, crop rotation and diversification. In addition, farmers showcased their soybean and its products including soy milk, soy cupcakes, soy porridge and soy biscuits. Soybeans are a highly nutritious food and a high value cash crop. Various companies supported the field days including Good Nature Agro (GNA), Afriseed, Seed Co, ZAMSEED, ATS, ETG, DK, Pannar, Syngenta, Osho Chemicals, Conservation Farming Unit and various agro-dealers who marketed their products to the 1,837 (41 percent female) farmers in attendance. This is further expected to strengthen the market approach.



- Increasing access to finance and enterprises:** Access to finance has continued to grow with 246 new saving groups formed during the second quarter, increasing the number for this year from 505 quartering Q1 to 751 in Q2, with an additional membership of 3,600 (2,988 females and 612 men). This has further increased individuals participating in USG-assisted group-based savings, microfinance, or lending programs to 11,455 (9,586 females, 1,869 males), representing 63.6 percent of the 2021 target. Overall, the total number of CSLGs since project inception stands at 1,334 with a total membership of 23,143, of which 83 percent are women and 15 percent are youth. This quarter saw a 28 percent increase in youth participation in CSLGs, with 765 more youth joining, bringing the total to 3,404 from 2,639 last quarter.

The financial inclusion agenda has proved successful in providing women and youth with much-needed, productive economic resources to improve their livelihoods. Interestingly, SUN TA is seeing a 30 percent increase in mothers with children under two, of which 8 percent are pregnant women, all benefiting from this financial inclusion activity. The visible evidence of the benefits are the various enterprises being established including 2,512 agricultural and 3,111 retail trading businesses, and a cumulative value of savings now at ZMW 8,414,755 (US\$372,334). The individual benefits to members saw 17 CSLGs in Ndola (7), Kapiri (3), Mansa (3), Mumbwa (3) and Samfya (1) lend ZMW 310,682 among a membership of 269 (F:223, M:46). The members used their proceeds to invest in small business such as poultry, fish selling, vegetable selling, buying of agriculture inputs and household food.

- Private sector engagement:** The market linkage SUN TA has created between the private sector and farmers is growing and generating more interest from other market players. In the soybean value chain, our partner Good Nature Agro (GNA) has enlisted more buyers—Mount Meru for Central Province, Inorbit and MICCA on the Copperbelt, and Seba Foods in the Northern, with the option that farmers are free to sell to the highest bidder. SUN TA encouraged farmers who received GNA soybeans loans to have a good credit culture and this has seen them repay 97,958 kgs of soybeans worth ZMW 979,580 out of the 140,425 kgs loaned to the farmers at ZMW10 per kg. These loans have generated interest, leading to recruitment of 81 new farmers who have already made advance payments of ZMW 17,400

(US\$769) to GNA for the 2021/2022 farming season. Progressively, 23 Lead Farmers and the 77 Private Extension Agents under the soybean value chain are now graduating to smallholder Anchor Commercial Farmers supplying inputs to other farmers like seedlings, seeds, and other agriculture inputs.

- Capacity-building for GRZ staff:** To facilitate long-term sustainability, SUN TA partnered with the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA), the government body responsible for investment, business promotion, and development and growth of micro, small and medium enterprises, to finalize the train-the-trainer (TOT) workshops for all the 13 districts. Of the 26 trained GRZ staff, alongside SUN TA District Technical Officers, six have now cascaded the training to 75 smallholder entrepreneurs including Lead Farmers, Private Extension Agents, and Community Saving facilitators in three districts (Luwingu, Nchelenge and Mansa). Coaching, mentorship, and monitoring of how these entrepreneurs are implementing the lessons are ongoing and ZDA will be visiting all the trained client's next quarter.
- Village chickens value chain:** The village chicken value chain is progressing with now 83 Demonstration Farmers identified and engaged out of the 90 for the annual target. Of the 83 recruited, 59 (21 females) have been trained in village chicken management, biosecurity and farm infrastructure development in the 11 of the 13 districts - Chibombo (21 males, 10 females) for Central, Mansa (16 males, 5 females) for Luapula and Kasama (22 males, 6 females) for Northern. In Ndola District, SUN TA and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock distributed the village chicken smart subsidy construction materials (roofing sheets, cement, and fencing materials) to 9 (3 females and 6 males) Village Chicken Demonstration and one Anchor Farmer. In Luwingu, one farmer already has 150 chickens and has recruited 10 Village Chicken Follower Farmers. In Ndola, one Demo Farmer already placed 250 birds (black Australorps and Sasol) using their own resources. In Kabwe, one farmer has already set up brooding facilities with a capacity of 5,000-day-old chicks and is currently growing 100 Kuroilers (point of lay) and 2,000 broilers. She is also producing feed for other poultry farmers in Kabwe, Chibombo and Liteta where she has outlets for both feed and vaccines.

The purpose of this approach is to build a pool of smallholder farmers who can run a poultry supply chain to benefit local communities, thereby increasing the availability of chickens and eggs. Using a cascade



approach, the trained “Anchor” Farmers mentor other farmers in their communities on the management of chickens and supply stock. Further, to improve the livelihoods of participating farmers, the SUN TA Project takes a ‘business solution to poverty’ approach. Thus, in addition to increasing the supply of protein, the venture aims to also increase incomes for local communities who will trade in chickens and eggs.

- Strengthening partnerships:** SUN TA held two meetings to explore potential partnerships. The first with Harvest Plus looked at possible collaboration on their food security pack of orange maize, orange fleshed sweet potato and Mbereshi (high Zinc and Iron beans). The other was with Financial Sector Deepening Zambia (FSDZ) on their inclusive enterprise financing

to see how micro, small, and medium enterprises can be supported better through CSLGs and using Lead Farmers, agro-dealers, banks, and other aggregators. Both discussions are relevant to the Project, look promising but are yet to be concluded. SUN TA also held a meeting with GNA, which reviewed and signed the amended MOU.

- **Technical supportive field visits:** The Agriculture and Livelihoods team undertook field visits during the second quarter. Findings revealed that farmers were initially reluctant to take up environmentally friendly technologies. However, after seeing the benefits from other farmers during field days, they have embraced technologies such as mulching, integrated cropping, IPM and composting. During the visits, the technical team engaged with district staff in the Ministry of Agriculture and the DNCCs. GRZ partners agreed that subdistrict structures must be strengthened, and DNCC regular field monitoring must be enhanced before the end of 2021. Monitoring of Lead Farmers by Camp Extension Officers was irregular, making reporting very difficult. To address the reporting issue, Block Extension Officers will follow up with their subordinates to ensure monitoring and timely reporting. The visits also revealed that, as reported above, CSLGs are making a real difference in the lives of their beneficiaries.

Nutrition & Health

SUN TA's Health & Nutrition component aims to improve infant and young child feeding (IYCF), caring practices, and Maternal and Adolescent Nutrition. SUN TA uses nutrition-specific, high-impact interventions (antenatal care, early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding, and systems strengthening for iron, folate and vitamin A supplementation including ORS/Zinc for treatment of diarrhea) targeting pregnant, breastfeeding women, teenage pregnant adolescents and children under two years of age. SUN TA works closely with the Ministry of Health and other related key line ministries through the formation and management of SMSGs to reach beneficiaries at the community and household levels.

- **SUN Mother Support Groups (SMSGs):** SUN TA trained a total of 1,038 (246M, 692F) CBVs in the implementation and management of SMSG during the second quarter. To date, CBVs have reached 44,218 SMSG members, 7,811 of whom are pregnant women (5,911 > 20 years and above; 1,490 <19 years) while 36,407 are women with children aged 0-23 months. Further, 42,949 women participated in health sessions conducted on various health topics such as appropriate age specific feeding, importance of consuming a diversified diet, basic hygiene and sanitation sessions and participation in cooking demonstrations. Of these, 8,186 were pregnant women while 33,549 were women with children aged 0-23 months. SMSGs are an important community level structure used to reach out to mothers in an organized way with various packaged information on nutrition specific topics such as importance of early antenatal attendance and supplementation on iron and folate to pregnant women, maternal and infant and young child nutrition focusing on breastfeeding issues, complementary feeding and importance of an appropriate nutrient-dense diversified diet. Through this platform, the Project is enhancing social behavior change by providing knowledge and life skills to address behavioral barriers that are contributing to the challenge of stunting in the 13 districts. Some reported benefits from SMSGs include improvements in child feeding practices at household level as evidenced by the improvements in the nutritional status of children in communities.
- **Community family planning services:** During this quarter, 691 Community Based Distributors were active in the provision of Family Planning services out of the initial 771

trained reaching a total of 29,516 clients with community family planning interventions. Of these 3,760 are on oral contraceptives, 10,858 on injectables and another 17,674 on condoms of which 17,431 received male condoms and 243 female condoms. The CBDs have significantly contributed to bringing the FP services closer within their catchment areas while contributing to the health facility client coverage. Further, 19,813 clients received counselling on FP services and another 408 were referred from the community to the health facilities for further management or provision of other FP related services.

- Early Childhood Development activities:** This quarter, SUN TA trained 410 health facility staff in 12 of the 13 districts, and 118 CBVs in Ndola and Kapiri Mposhi. The health facility staff are cascading the trainings to the CBVs who are working through health centers to reach pregnant mothers and mothers with children under two years old. SUN TA is ensuring Early Childhood Development (ECD) activities are incorporated within the scope of the SMSG model. The purpose of ECD is to stimulate early childhood learning and help guide developmental milestones as the child grows. This is to prevent stunting and improve overall growth, both nutrition and cognitive development in children. The training was grounded in evidence and included practical knowledge and skills such as role plays and visits with children in hospitals. The Project will report some of the expected gains in the next quarter.



- Provision of materials to health facilities:** The Project procured various health and nutrition materials for use by health care providers and CBVs in the delivery of health and nutrition services in their catchment areas. These included age appropriate feeding bowls for children aged 6-23 months, under five cards, ECD training materials and SOPs, and social behavioral change package with child feeding games, complementary feeding book, family planning training materials and MUAC tapes for both adults and children. These materials will go a long way in facilitating districts to conduct trainings and demonstrations in an appropriate manner within the standards recommended by government.
- Child Health Week activities:** SUN TA supported government during the last Child Health Week, June 21-24, 2021. The support varied across districts depending on some of the needs that the district health offices (DHOs) submitted to SUN TA, varying from fuel to facilitate monitoring of the CHW activities. During the same period SUN TA collaborated with DHOs in some districts and aired radio programs on a local radio station to sensitize the local community on Child Health Week whose theme was “striving for Universal Health Coverage even amidst COVID-19 pandemic.” Additionally, SUN TA took advantage of the Child Health

Week to work with health facility staff and SMSG CBVs to register and link pregnant, breastfeeding and mothers with children below the age of two to SUN Mother Support Groups.

- **Technical supportive field visits:** During Q2 2021, the Nutrition and Child Health Expert and the Nutrition and Child Health Officer made technical backstopping trips to all 13 districts, looking to ensure nutrition activity implementation with focus on SMSG activities, and with COVID-19 prevention measures in mind. They conducted spot checks on field activities during visits to SMSGs, meetings with CBVs and health facility CBV supervisors in catchment areas and monitoring and mentoring the District Nutrition Technical Officers. Through this process, they identified and documented best practices toward implementation of SMSG activities, bottlenecks and some of the solutions that could be applied. During the community visits, the team observed the formation of community savings and loan groups (CSLGs) within the SMSGs as a best practice. The women in the CSLGs indicated the benefits of investing in income generating activities from loans while making savings. This has led to improved meeting attendance as more mothers attend sessions beyond discussions on improving nutritional status of members, maternal and child feeding, and family planning compared to previous attendance for SMSG members which was irregular in some of the supported communities. In addition, in some communities the mothers are forming community group gardens or SMSG gardens. The garden produce is used for cooking demonstrations, raising funds after sales, and using the produce as teaching aids to teach mothers on good nutrition. Based on these efforts, households with pregnant and children aged 0-24 months are showing interest in attending the meetings, antenatal and under 5 clinics.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

The SUN TA WASH program focuses on increasing access to safe water and reducing exposure to environmental pathogens that cause increased risk of diarrheal diseases and intestinal infections. This quarter, SUN TA worked with the Ministry of Local Government (MLG) and Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection (MWDSEP) to increase access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene at household and community levels in the following ways.

- **Hygiene promotion:** Community Champions (CCs) continued providing sensitization and capacity-building to the SUN Mother Support Groups to promote frequent and correct handwashing with water and soap, hygienic use and maintenance of toilets/latrines and water facilities, and safe waste management at household, community and health facility level. As a result of these intervention, 259,114 people across the 13 districts have had access to improved handwashing with soap through the installation of tippy taps, pressure bottles, and other locally innovated handwashing facilities. The work of Community Champions remains critical in view of COVID-19.
- **Community-led Total Sanitation (CLTS):** This quarter, SUN TA continued to provide social and behavior change messages on the importance of consistently using latrines, practicing optimal handwashing at critical moments, taking appropriate food safety actions, and properly disposing of adult, child, and animal feces. In addition, the Project worked with communities to attain ODF status focusing on villages in the health facility catchment areas.
 - **Capacity Building:** During the reporting period, SUN TA supported the formation and orientation of the Provincial Water Sanitation and Hygiene Education (P-WASHE)

committees for the Copperbelt and Central provinces. Also, the Project supported the orientation of Provincial ODF Taskforces for Northern, Central and Copperbelt Provinces in their roles and responsibilities toward providing leadership to the districts on matters of ODF attainment and sustainability. Luapula Province was an exception as its provincial teams had already been supported in a similar manner by UNICEF.

- **Access to basic sanitation:** SUN TA formed 558 Sanitation Action Groups (SAGs) with 5,580 members (2,790 females and 2,790 males) to oversee and follow-up the construction and use of adequate latrines to attain Open Defecation Free (ODF) in Chibombo, Kabwe, Kapiri Mposhi, Kitwe, Kasama, Mbala, Nchelenge, Samfya and Mansa districts. The SAGs supported 70,474 households with a population of 309,188 to build household latrines with a smooth and cleanable floor, a lid to cover the drop hole, and a superstructure to provide privacy in addition to a handwashing facility with soap and water. This is to avert causes of poor sanitation associated with unimproved latrines and open defecation and, fundamentally improve household nutritional outcomes.
 - **Open Defecation Free (ODF) status:** There were 122 villages in Kaputa district certified as Open Defecation Free following the mass verification in quarter one. Further, 420 villages from 10 districts claimed ODF with 169 villages verified ODF by their respective D-WASHE committees and are pending certification by their Provincial ODF Taskforces. D-WASHE committees are earmarked to verify the remaining 251 villages in the next quarter. The increase in ODF certified communities is expected to increase hygiene and sanitation standards and reduce the incidence of diarrheal diseases which are a common cause of stunting.
- **Access to safe water:** SUN TA worked with GRZ staff to conduct water assessments for new boreholes and borehole rehabilitations/reconstructions. In addition, the Project worked with district and community level staff to build their capacity to deliver and sustain clean water in the targeted communities. Access to safe, reliable, and a continuous supply of water is necessary for adequate hygiene practices and reducing diarrhea in children. The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the importance of access to water (and hand hygiene) in containing the spread of the pandemic.
 - **Borehole rehabilitation/reconstruction:** The Project commenced rehabilitation of 114 boreholes across the 13 districts with 71 completed, of which 28 were approved and handed over to communities in Chibombo, Ndola, Kitwe and Luwingu. The 28 boreholes have increased access to clean water for 11,058 people in the named districts. The 2021 target is 300 borehole reconstructions. The communities have greatly appreciated the rehabilitated boreholes which have provided a huge relief, as some of them depended on shallow, unprotected wells and streams, causing perennial diarrheal diseases. Women, who are the majority involved in drawing water for household use, have seen the distances covered to access water and workload significantly reduced, giving them more time to do other productive activities. Others are planning to take advantage of the increased water supply to establish vegetable gardens to increase the availability of nutritious foods (see Success Stories in **Annex 2**).
 - **New boreholes:** SUN TA oversaw two contractors in the drilling of 20 new boreholes in Luwingu, Kitwe, Nchelenge and Mumbwa districts, with civil works and pump installation ongoing. Three more drilling and construction companies have since been contracted to

start drilling in July. This will bring the total number of drilling and construction companies to five and more than double the pace of boreholes being drilled and constructed across the 13 districts.

- **Borehole repair and maintenance:** Through previous trainings in handpump operation and maintenance, 54 APMs repaired and serviced 65 boreholes that are now providing safe and clean water to 30,735 people in 13 districts. The APMs are regarded as volunteers in their domicile localities but are private entrepreneurs in their non-domicile localities, enabling them to raise their income and become self-sufficient. Their presence in the community enhances handpump functionality, ensuring regular supply of clean and safe water to reduce diarrheal diseases – a leading cause of stunting.



- **V-WASHE Committee:** SUN TA established and oriented 87 V-WASHE Committees on their roles and responsibilities, reflecting a total membership of 870 with equal gender representation. This is an ongoing process as more and more boreholes are rehabilitated and drilled. V-WASHE Committees are responsible for educating water point beneficiaries on proper operation and maintenance. They also organize the community for timely maintenance of water facilities.
- **Technical Supportive Field Visits:** SUN TA conducted technical supportive field visits to monitor and provide oversight to district activities. In a meeting with the Council Secretary and the D-WASHE members, Kaputa expressed commitment in achieving a districtwide ODF status and this was evidenced by the hundreds of villages so far declared ODF. The district leveraged the good results achieved in Kaputa chiefdom to the other chiefdoms still lagging in access to adequate sanitation facilities through the involvement of the traditional leaders as facilitators of the CLTS cascade. At the time of reporting, the remaining 90 villages in the district were also claiming ODF. The visited health facilities reported a reduction in diarrheal diseases in the area – a clear outcome of improved sanitation status the district has managed to achieve. In Kasama, Mansa, and Luwingu, the D-WASHE Committee working with traditional leaders ensured that chiefdoms set dates for ODF and are continuously monitoring and following up. In addition, traditional leaders were engaged to use motivation approaches as opposed to intimidation so that the communities

construct and use toilets for better health and reduced disease burden. SUN TA will help the district develop strategies on how they will sustain ODF achievement and avoid slippages by engaging the private sector who will strengthen the sanitation supply chain and financing.

CROSS-CUTTING

- **Coordination support meetings:** SUN TA facilitated and participated in various planning and coordination meetings at district and provincial levels. Some of the issues discussed in the meetings included leadership of the DNCCs, coordination of implementation by line ministries, and reviewing and realigning activities. In other meetings, SUN TA in Nchelenge participated in a consultative meeting called by Action Africa Help to discuss setting up an economic strengthening program to enhance the livelihoods of refugee populations through better coordination of savings groups. In Samfya, SUN TA has been co-opted into the District Health Technical Committee. During the quarterly meeting attended by various departments and projects, SUN TA shared its Project focus, progress from inception to date and areas for collaboration with other stakeholders. Among other projects supported by USAID that participated in the meeting were Discover Health and EQUIP, and the EU-funded Natwampane SGBV Project.
- **Project Quarterly Review Meeting:** A Project-wide, three-day quarterly review meeting was held in May and for the first time brought all staff together in two locations, Lusaka and Kasama. Being the first such meeting, it was useful in fostering a collective sense of direction and discussing several program and administrative issues that could not be resolved through virtual discussions. The feedback from USAID who attended the first day was helpful in improving program implementation going forward. The feedback from staff was overwhelmingly positive and they proposed that such review meetings be held regularly. COVID-19 conditions permitting, the next review meeting will be held in September and will bring all staff in one location.
- **Social and Behavior Change:** The Project's SBC Specialist was engaged this quarter to lead the implementation of the SBC strategy. An implementation plan for the strategy was developed with input from the Project's technical leads and activities to initiate the implementation of the strategy were undertaken as follows:
 - Project staff were oriented on the SBC Strategy to enhance their understanding ahead of the community and household campaign. Further, the SBC Specialist and technical leads jointly identified priority behaviors and focus areas for SBC activities.
 - An implementation plan for an aspirational 'SUN Happy Home' campaign with household and community-level objectives was developed to move the target audience from awareness about the problem of stunting to taking actions that will mitigate it. Based on the priority behaviors identified, the next steps are to engage relevant national and districts stakeholders such as NFNC, the Communications & Advocacy Technical Working Group and DNCCs to develop and pre-test campaign materials which will include radio spots, jingles and public service announcements to leverage these platforms in view of the COVID-19 response. Other campaign activities will include door-to-door counselling, support groups and peer mentorship among SUN households. Also, the Project will

leverage already existing materials from past or current USAID projects through adaptation and pre-testing.

- The SBC Specialist integrated social and behavior change components to enlighten the media on how prevailing behaviors contributed to stunting and how they could contribute to behavior change through their information sharing platforms. Viamo also presented on their digital platforms.
- As part of Project familiarization, the SBC Specialist undertook field visits in four districts to gain an understanding of SUN TA interventions. Sociocultural context is important in shaping behaviors that contribute to stunting. Observations from these field visits indicate that SUN TA's interventions have relied heavily on community engagement to increase knowledge on stunting and reduce behavioral and structural barriers that are contributing to the problem. Across the Project's four pillars, a holistic SBC approach has been adopted to include message dissemination on the prevention of stunting while CBVs and SUN households are supported with capacity-building to make sustainable changes. This is done through activities such as cooking demonstrations, health facility gardens for demonstration and learning, financial inclusion through CSLGs and CLTS, among others.
- **Media orientations on MCDP II:** SUN TA supported the NFNC to orient media houses on the MCDP II in all 13 districts. The orientations were clustered in four provinces and covered 70 journalists from print and electronic media houses in the districts. The journalists appreciated the orientation as some of them were hearing of the program for the first time. They also said being oriented on nutrition would widen their editorial content which was currently dominated by political issues. They pledged to work with the program and requested involvement in the program going forward. Throughout the orientation the Project benefited from wide media coverage on radio, television, and newspapers. SUN TA will leverage this cadre of journalists for ongoing outreach and coverage of Project activities in the respective districts.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING (MEL)

MEL is a critical component of the Project, enabling design of the monitoring plan, tools, and tracking of results. SUN TA's M&E system draws on and uses the existing government district and sub-district reporting structures and systems. Where there are capacity gaps and system weaknesses, SUN TA builds capacity and strengthens the existing systems.

- **Monitoring:** The Project conducted district data review meetings in all 13 districts aimed at reviewing submitted data for each reporting month. Also, the data review meetings included a quality assessment to establish:
 - ✓ The Project supported activities that contributed to a reported result.
 - ✓ The utilization of the tools introduced to capture and report on indicator data.
 - ✓ Evidence of source documents at district, catchment, and community level.
- The reported data was also verified by the Provincial MEL team. This involved following up with the District Technical Officers and Data Associates to clarify data sources and methods of data capture.

- The on-site verification of Project activities was however put on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, remote technical support by the Provincial MEL team to the district and the national provincial offices is ongoing.
 - The districts continued to provide support to community and catchment structures in the utilization of data capture tools. This was done through on-site coaching and mentoring to the health facility staff, Camp Extension Officers, lead farmers, CSLG facilitators, SMSGs and other community-based volunteers/facilitators.
 - At the request of NFNC, SUN TA reviewed the harmonized the District Multisectoral Activity Report Form to ensure that the Project data needs/key district level indicators are captured.
 - NFNC requested partners' input into the multisectoral activity reporting form (MARF). SUN TA's review ensured the inclusion of Project standard and custom indicators into the form. The next step will be the orientation of district partners and SUN TA will be asked to support the activity in the Project supported districts.
- **Learning:** In 2020, SUN TA began a household registration exercise which has continued to encounter challenges including capturing low numbers of pregnant and lactating women, low quality entries on the registration forms owing to CBVs' low literacy levels and complexity of the tool, and low motivation among the CBVs to conduct the exercise. The Project piloted an approach that moved the focus from away from registering women at the household level to the health facility. This involved the registering pregnant and lactating mothers at the health facilities with a shortened registration form, simplifying the language, applying mobile technology, and engaging more literate and incentivized CBVs (facilitated with transport and lunch). The pilot was for one month in 130 high volume facilities.
 - Following the completion of the pilot on the beneficiary registration, a session was held with the District Managers, regional teams and SMT to share insights from the pilot and consider scale-up to other districts. The approach was also employed by the districts in support of the Child Health Week activities.
 - Beyond the registration, the districts have also been supervising the CBVs that conducted the household registration to facilitate linkages to Project supported services, particularly joining the SUN Mother Support Groups.
 - Delays in data transmission and compilation due to the paper-based system used at the catchment area level has led the project to pilot mobile phone technology in data collection and reporting. The pilot involved Agriculture Camp Extension Officers, Environmental Health Technologies, and other health facility staff and CBVs to conduct beneficiary registration. Participants received an orientation to the mobile platform and went out to test the mobile platform in the various sites where data was to be collected. The pilot was a success going by the main success criteria of adherence to data reporting timelines which improved from an average of 60 percent before the introduction of the technology to over 80 percent following the introduction of mobile phone technology. Other key learning points include the need to identify CBVs with adequate literacy levels as well as the provision of transport logistics.

- As a member of the NFNC/SUN LE steering committee, SUN TA participated in the preparatory processes for the national nutrition research dissemination conference including the review of technical presentations for the conference.
- The Project also participated in the National Nutrition Conference by supporting two presentations (1) The Application Mobile Technology in Nutrition Programming; and (2) Use of MCDP II Baseline Survey Data in Programme Planning and Decisions. Viamo, a SUN TA partner, made a presentation at the conference and SUN TA also supported the Ndola District Nutrition Coordinating Committee in preparing the presentation for the summit.
- SUN TA participated in the NFNC/SUN LE materials consolidation meeting. The three-day meeting intended to prepare for the district learning and dissemination of the SUN LE research with the aim of informing the forthcoming planning exercise in all the SUN districts.
- SUN TA participated in the USAID vulnerability mapping meeting with the PNCC, DNCC, WNCC, USAID and USAID projects including Zambia Local Impact, USAID/Zambia Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Platform and SUN TA. SUN TA made a presentation on “Lessons from Beneficiary Registration.”
- **Internal Evaluation:** The Project developed a strategy for conducting community dialogue on implementation and documenting community perceptions on Project outcomes at household and community level. Draft tools were also developed including focus group discussion and in-depth interview guides. The qualitative data capture could not however be undertaken owing to COVID-19 restrictions and will be conducted in the next quarter.
 - The SBC Phone-Based study originally planned was cancelled in view of the poor response and completion rates for other phone-based activities. The Project is considering other avenues for achieving this objective.
 - Through interaction with the Ministry of Health, the ministry has committed to granting members of the SUN TA team access to the health management information system (HMIS) even as we await the full orientation to the system. The Project also accessed HMIS data on intermediate outcome and outcome data, e.g. diarrhea cases.
- **Data Management System:** The cloud server to host the project dhis2 was procured and set-up to enable effective migration of electronic data management.
 - The migration of data management systems from Kobo to dhis2 also involved the development, testing and review of indicator/data elements forms to align with data being generated in each technical area.
 - Sector specific orientations to the dhis2 data forms commenced and this was done according to each technical area.
 - This will be followed by the migration of historical data and entry of newly generated data.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

SUN TA continued to be actively involved in the SUN space and participated in several meetings and platforms called by USAID, NFNC and other stakeholders as follows:

- Meetings with USAID:** This quarter, check-in meetings were held where USAID provided strategic direction and SUN TA provided implementation updates, WASH bi-weekly updates, and participation in selection of subcontractors to undertake borehole works. Additionally, the SUN TA regional offices continued interacting with USAID regional staff on a weekly basis to provide updates on implementation status.
- USAID Visits SUN TA Districts in Central and Copperbelt Provinces:** A team of USAID Zambia Mission officials visited SUN TA Project activities in Kabwe, Ndola and Kitwe Districts. The team, which was led by the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) included; the Office Director from the Democracy, Rights and Governance Office at USAID, the Chief of Party (COP) of USAID's ZMELP activity, and the USAID Senior Development Adviser, who is also the Alternate COR for SUN TA. They visited the Project's activities in water, sanitation and hygiene, including the newly rehabilitated boreholes that will increase access to clean, safe water for vulnerable rural communities; agricultural activities where the beneficiaries showcased the variety of crops they are growing with the Project's support such as orange maize, orange sweet potatoes and iron-rich beans; and health and nutrition activities where community-based volunteers explained their outreach to pregnant and lactating women including family planning and improved childcare practices. Participants answered questions from the USAID team about how SUN TA interventions converged to impact the targeted households.



- USG collaboration:** SUN TA continued working with the USAID Youth Lead Activity to identify and place young professionals as interns in Lusaka, and borehole associates in Kabwe, Ndola, Kasama and Mansa. In Q2 2021, the engaged borehole associates (3 males and 3 females young engineering graduates) started their work in the districts.
- Engagement with Commercial Utilities:** The recent WASH sector-wide reforms by the Government saw the Local Authorities delegate water supply and sanitation functions to Commercial Utility (CU) companies to scale-up and sustain WASH interventions in districts. Currently, the Local Authorities (LAs) are the ones mandated by law to provide water supply and sanitation in Zambia. However, work in urban, peri-urban and growth centers was delegated to CUs formed LAs and regulated by the National Water Supply and Sanitation Council (NWASCO). Thus, all the 10 CUs providing water supply and sanitation services in Zambia are owned by GRZ through LAs as the sole shareholders. A recent regulatory

framework gave the mandate to NAWASCO to regulate water supply and sanitation services in rural areas and by the same stretch giving the mandate to the CUs. However, CUs still do not have the capacity and structures to expand to rural areas. Rural areas are less profitable for them since these CUs run on profit making. Hence the reasons why the LAs are still responsible for rural water supply and sanitation. SUN TA has been working with CUs to provide capacity in CLTS cascades and platforms (DWASHE and PWASHEs) for information exchanges and data management which will expedite institutional coordination. In the period under review, SUN TA engaged Chambeshi Water and Sanitation Company (ChWSC) for Northern Province, Kafubu Water and Sanitation Company (KWSC) and Nkana Water and Sanitation Company (NWSC) for Copperbelt, Lukanga Water and Sanitation Company for Central Province (LgWSC) and Luapula Water and Sanitation Company (LpWSC) for Luapula Province to be provide support during sanitation demand creation, CLTS monitoring and ODF village verification through the Provincial Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education (PWASHE) Committees and Provincial ODF Task Forces that were formed and trained. This joint planning and implementation will sustain SUN TA contributions to nutrition-sensitive WASH and avoid villages from returning to open defecation.

- **SUN TA joining WASH Forum:** To amplify the visibility of our work and contribute to discussions in the WASH sector, SUN TA applied to join the NGO WASH Forum. The Forum comprises WASH promoting NGOs and CSOs to promote coordination, collaboration, and networking among stakeholders. The platform is also used to advocate for improve and sustainable GRZ support towards WASH.
- **Partnership meetings:** SUN TA started potential partnership meetings with private organizations to develop and strengthen the sanitation supply chain and financing, which will help people develop cheap, durable, and top-end latrines, ultimately helping many climb the sanitation ladder. The organizations involved in the discussions which will be concluded next quarter are:
 - Zambia WASH Advocacy Network (ZWAN) has a strong WASH community engagement and sanitation marketing background whose approach we can use to strengthen the community ownership of our interventions.
 - Network for Environmental Concerns and Solutions (NECOS) has been instrumental in integrated peri and urban water supply and sanitation where they promote durable and quality latrine and handwashing options like the Urine Diversion Dehydrated (UDD) Dry Toilet. We could make use of them in urban, peri-urban catchments and rural growth centers.
 - Vision Africa Regional Network - Zambia (VARN) has been implementing WASH and nutrition interventions in social marketing by providing different quality, adequate and affordable sanitation options.

PROGRAM AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Human Resources, Administration, Procurement and Finance teams continued to provide operational support to the technical departments and district offices to ensure smooth implementation of Project Activities. In view of COVID=19, SUN TA encouraged staff to work from home while the offices stayed open with restrictions. This was aimed at limiting the number

of staff simultaneously present in offices. Further, management had provided for pick-up and drop-off services to staff without personal cars to avoid the use of public transport and periodically sanitized the office premises, both in Lusaka and the districts, to maintain hygiene and well-being of the staff.

- **Human Resources:** The Project had a total of 137 staff as of June 30, 2021. Six new employees were recruited during this quarter including a new Director of Finance & Administration who joined in June 2021. To beef up numbers in the Procurement Unit in view of the increased demand, the Project engaged two additional interns from FHI360 LEAD Project. Another senior procurement staff member is expected to join the team in July 2021. A project of this magnitude requires a full-fledged Compliance Office. A Compliance Manager is expected to start in the first week of July 2021 and will lead project adherence to systems and procedures to increase risk mitigation.
- **Procurement:** The Procurement Department undertook several purchases of goods and services to support the Project implementation. Major procurements included drilling firms to increase access to water across all 13 districts. Others were various M&E data reporting tools, health and nutrition teaching aids such as growth records, feeding posters, director guides, participant manuals, training guides, bottles for testing water samples, MUAC measuring tapes for forearms (both for adults and children), and mobile phones for a data collection pilot project.
- **Finance & Compliance:** The internal control and systems are undergoing reorganization with the advent of the new Director Finance & Administration, working with the systems review consultant. A new plan to reorganize the finance department is underway and is expected to be rolled out in July 2021. SUN TA is planning to use the mobile money platform to effect fund transfers in the field which will ease the payment of allowances to CBVs and other participants. Demonstrations have been given by the chosen service provider and will be rolled out in the next quarter. There was an incident reported in one of the district offices (Kaputa) and currently the compliance team has visited the district office and is investigating the details. Reports are being finalized.
- **Information Technology:** Project IT in consultation with the senior management team is still awaiting the outcome of the approval sought from USAID to procure 63 laptops for the smooth operations of the Project. In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, IT has purchased MiFi instruments for all SUN TA staff, so that they can have alternate internet connectivity from their respective homes and can work remotely.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

SUN TA ensured that each of the respective Project's interventions complied with the approved Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) to avoid/minimize the negative environmental consequences.

- **Agriculture:** The program promoted conservation farming and technologies which included conservation tillage, liming, rotation of legumes and maize, soybean production and on farm demonstration including field days on use of herbicides (mostly for soybeans and orange sweet potatoes). Demonstration and Anchor Farmers of village chicken were

trained on the use of disinfectants, vaccines/drugs as well as their disposal with recommended mitigation measures for the use of disinfectants and vaccines. The program technical team also conducted spot field visits to monitor compliance which was improving but not yet at acceptable levels and more sensitization and safe use trainings for pesticides have been planned in the next quarter. The districts covered included Ndola, Kitwe, Mbala, Kasama, Kaputa, Luwingu, Mansa, Kapiri Mposhi Kabwe and Chibombo.

- **Health & Nutrition:** Health and Nutrition interventions are complying with environmental guidelines in its activity operations. Environmentally friendly disposal mechanisms are applied such as safe disposal of the family planning syringes and needles that are placed in the sharp boxes by CBDs and these are taken to the health facility they are affiliated with for incineration. CBDs further share information with the clients of other products like used condoms, used packets of oral contraceptives that should be safely disposed in latrines. Use of alternative cooking methods are promoted such as use of gas, electricity in urban areas rather than charcoal and firewood which promote deforestation.
- **WASH:** For water infrastructure development, SUN TA ensured monitoring requirements were included in contract specifications and ensured contractors' compliance with the same. Similarly, SUN TA is using the approved Water Quality Assurance Plan (WQAP) to conform to both local and U.S. government environmental laws and regulations. This quarter, the Project assessed 221 boreholes for rehabilitations/reconstructions including the collection of water samples for testing. Of the assessed boreholes, 44 tested positive for Arsenic and/or Lead in Mumbwa, Chibombo, Kabwe, Kapiri Mposhi, Ndola, Mbala, Samfya, Nchelenge, Kasama, Kaputa and Luwingu districts. Local authorities were all notified with a recommendation that the water points be decommissioned and asked to provide the Project with feedback on their respective course of action. SUN TA further offered to assist in decommissioning the said boreholes. During this reporting period, none of the districts had responded to SUN TA's recommendation.

KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- **COVID-19** continued to influence the implementation of the Project as the peak of the third wave occurred during the quarter under review. This affected Project implementation in the following ways:
 - **Disruption of Project implementation:** The third wave of the COVID-19 disrupted the implementation of activities in the latter part of the quarter. As Project activities largely entail interacting with communities and holding meetings for capacity-building, the ban on gatherings meant most activities were halted across all the 13 districts. For example, CLTS activities and interaction with farmers were hugely affected due to the public health guidelines on movements and limitations on the number of people allowed to gather for activities such as triggering. Kaputa chiefdom's plan to hold an ODF celebration was postponed. Also, family planning and ECD trainings could not be conducted due the restrictions. Some staff contracted the disease and lost close relatives, both of which took a toll on them and their work.
 - **Delays in water quality test results:** The Project experienced delays to receive the water test results due COVID-19 outbreak at Alfred Knight Laboratory, the only SUN TA-

approved testing facility that is functioning. In the next quarter, the Project intends to complete an assessment to engage an additional USAID-approved laboratory (Zambia Bureau of Standards) to speed up the water quality testing.

- **Turnover of GRZ staff:** Implementation of activities continued to be impacted negatively by transfers of government staff both at district and sub-district level. This negatively affected the supervision and monitoring of interventions at field level. Many of the government staff that have been trained by and worked with SUN TA in the implementation of the Project keep being moved. This continues to create capacity gaps and slows down activity implementation.
- **Non-functioning of the porta-labs for testing water:** The Project's ability to speed up works to deliver new and rehabilitated water points was partly undermined by the non-functional porta-labs in some districts, while other districts did not have any. The Project has had to facilitate repairs and procured some porta-labs.
- **Low water quality and quantity:** A significant number of borehole rehabilitation (BHR) sites are failing to produce acceptable water quality and quantity after jetting, resulting in SUN TA having to continue to test large numbers of replacement sites. Further, limited availability of construction materials (such as correct crushed stone, correct fencing material, etc.) is causing difficulties for some BHR contractors.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

Planned Activities	2021		
	July	Aug	Sep
Project Management			
Key staff meet with USAID for project implementation updates	X	X	X
Prepare and submit quarterly progress report	X		
Conduct consultative meetings with relevant GRZ structures	X	X	X
Procurement of project equipment, supplies, and materials	X	X	X
Agriculture & Livelihoods			
Build capacity of Village Chicken Demonstration Farmers and Anchor Farmers & set up demonstration sites	X	X	X
Build capacity of District Livestock Officers and District Technical Officers in Village Chicken management practices		X	X
Identify Village Chicken Follower Farmers	X	X	X
Identify Village Chicken Day Old Chicks suppliers	X	X	
Delivery of building materials smart subsidies to Village Chicken Demonstration Farmers	X	X	
Training of village chicken Demonstration and Anchor Farmers on use of disinfectants and vaccines/drugs, disposal			X
Establish or form community savings and loan groups	X	X	X
Continue establishing and monitoring community and health facility gardens	X	X	X
Training of Lead Farmers and Private Extension Agents in use of herbicides, soil management		X	X
Recruitment of Soybean Farmers for the 2021/2022 farming season		X	X
Conduct monthly Agriculture and Livelihoods technical review meeting	X	X	X
Nutrition & Health			
Completion of trainings for family planning, ECD and SMSGs	X	X	X
Accelerate the integration of Early Childhood Development activities at community level and within the SMSGs	X	X	X
Triggering and formation of SMSGs	X	X	X
Conduct monthly Health and Nutrition technical review meetings	X	X	X
Supervisory and mentorship support to SMSGs implementation at community level.	X	X	X
WASH			
Conduct CLTS activities (triggering and retriggering) with emphasis on latrine usages and hygiene	X	X	X
Mass ODF Verifications and certifications	X	X	X
District Monitoring of WASH activities	X	X	X
Develop WASH Business Model and establish sanitation marketing committees		X	X
Undertake rehabilitation of non-functional boreholes with related water quality analysis in health facilities, schools, and communities	X	X	X
Drill and construct new boreholes	X	X	X
Mass ODF verifications and certifications		X	X
Conduct monthly WASH technical review meeting	X	X	X
Cross-Cutting			
Continue SBC rollout and capacity-building for SUN TA staff	X	X	X

Planned Activities	2021		
	July	Aug	Sep
Finalize implementation plan for SBC Strategy	X		
Review, adapt and pre-test existing SBC materials	X	X	
Support NFNC to review and adapt orientation packages for community, traditional and religious leaders	X	X	X
Photograph and video documentation of project activities		X	X
Integrate dissemination of COVID-19 messages in ongoing activities through radio and public address system	X	X	X
Documentation of best practices and success stories	X	X	X
M&E			
Conduct intervention-based registration of beneficiary households (on-going).	X	X	X
Support and strengthen the process of DNCC, WNCC, and CBVs data collection and collation at health facility and community levels.	X	X	X
Collaborate with SUN LE in support of the Learning Agenda.	X	X	X
Finalize and pre-test SUN TA mobile quarterly survey	X	X	
Conduct the SUN TA quarterly mobile surveys			X

ANNEX A: INDICATOR PERFORMANCE TRACKING TABLE

Indicator Type	Indicator	Quarter 2 Results Achieved	Annual Target	Cumulative Results	Life of Project Target
		Apr 1 – Jun 30, 2021	Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2021	Feb 2019 – Jun 2021	
Objective 1: Adequate Quantity and Quality of Dietary Intake Among Targeted Groups Increased					
IR 1. Increased, reliable access to safe, nutritious food					
EG.3.2-24	Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance [IM-level]	6,957 (F 4,069; M 2,888)	100,000	11,452 (F6,595; M4,857)	120,000
EG.3.2-27	Value of agriculture-related financing accessed as a result of USG assistance [IM-level]	ZMW979, 580	ZMW 400,000 (targeting 1,400 farmers)	ZMW979, 580	ZMW1,000,000
EG.3.2-25	Number of hectares under improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance [IM-level]	1,065	1,562.5 ¹	1,713	2,450
EG.3-10, -11, -12	Yield of targeted agricultural commodities among program participants with USG assistance [IM-level]	2.5	Maize=2 MT/ha	2.5	Maize=2 MT/ha
		1.4	Soybeans=1 MT/ha	1.4	Soybeans=1 MT/ha
		600	Mixed beans=500 kg/ha	600	Mixed beans=500kg/ha
EG.3-2	Number of individuals participating in USG food security programs	407,091	400,000	723,140	1,200,000
EG.4.2-7	Number of individuals participating in USG-assisted group-based savings, micro-finance or lending programs	6,725 (F6,725, M1,438)	18,000	23,143 (F19,208, M3,935)	27,000
Objective 2: Adequate Health Conditions for Biological Utilization of Nutrients Improved					
IR 3. Improved delivery of effective, sustainable health and nutrition services					
HL.9-3b	Number of women receiving individual or group counseling on maternal and/or child nutrition (HL.9-3b)	84,700	120,000	N/A	130,000
HL.9-1e	Number of children under 2 who received treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM)	449	N/A	1,411	N/A
HL.9-1f	Number of children under 2 who were admitted for treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (HL.9-1f)	1,800	N/A	4,398	N/A
HL.7.1-2	Percent of USG-assisted service delivery sites providing family planning counseling and/or services	53%	55%	61%	100%
HL.7.2-2	Number of USG-assisted community health workers (CHWs) providing Family Planning	628	1,500	2,000	2,493

¹ Calculated from indicator EG.3.2-24a. Gardens for homestead farmers or follower farmers calculated using a quarter of a lima which is 12.5m x 12.5m

Indicator Type	Indicator	Quarter 2 Results Achieved	Annual Target	Cumulative Results	Life of Project Target
		Apr 1 – Jun 30, 2021	Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2021	Feb 2019 – Jun 2021	
	(FP) information, referrals, and/or services during the year				
HL.9-3	Number of pregnant women reached with nutrition-specific interventions through USG-supported programs	8,220	6,500	N/A	25,640
HL.9-2	Number of children under two (0-23 months) reached with community-level nutrition interventions through USG-supported programs [IM-level]	46,481	123,000	N/A	130,000
IR 4. Healthier, cleaner environment					
HL.8.1-1	Number of people gaining access to basic drinking water services as a result of USG assistance	11,058	112,500	11,058	250,000
HL.8.1-3	Number of people receiving improved service quality from an existing basic drinking or safely managed water service as a result of USG assistance (HL.8.1-3)	11,058	75,000	11,058	175,000
HL.8.1-4	Number of institutional settings gaining access to a basic drinking water services as a result of USG assistance	14	N/A	24	N/A (only for opportunistic interventions)
HL.8.2-1	Number of communities verified as open defecation free (ODF) as a result of USG assistance	122	1,200	122	2,400
HL.8.2-2	Number of people gaining access to a basic sanitation service as a result of USG assistance	309,188	400,000	587,357	1,200,000
HL.8.2-4	Number of basic sanitation facilities provided in institutional settings as a result of USG assistance	0	N/A	0	N/A (only for opportunistic interventions)
Cross-cutting					
HL.9-4	Number of individuals receiving nutrition-related training through USG-supported programs				
	Agriculture and Livelihoods	945 (F442, M503)	1,530	9,683 (F5,501 M4,182)	7,253
	Health and Nutrition	975 (F644, M331)	1,834	6,539 (F3,804 M2,735)	3,370
	WASH	2,024 (F939, M1,085)	1,800	7,430 (F3,275, 4,155)	2,227
GNDR-2	Percentage of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources [IM-level]	65%	70%	N/A	80%
YOUTH-3	Percentage of participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources who are youth (15-29) [IM-level]	16%	30% ²	N/A	30%

² The baseline will be determined following analysis of 2020 data. The preliminary target for 2021 is premised on the estimated population of young people 15-29

ANNEX B: SUCCESS STORIES

Community-based Volunteers Bridge the Gap to Deliver Health Services

Malnutrition, a leading cause of death among children under five, is a major public health concern in Zambia. To contribute to reducing malnutrition and help secure the future of children, the USAID Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance (SUN TA) Project is supporting the government to implement the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) program in 13 districts across Zambia.

In Kitwe District, Copperbelt Province, SUN TA has supported the Ministry of Health to train over 800 Community Based Volunteers (CBVs) to work with SUN Mothers Support Groups (SMSGs) that are affiliated with 26 health facilities. The SMSG model is a community-based strategy SUN TA uses to reach mothers of children under two years old and pregnant women, to address issues of behavior change related to maternal and child health as well as nutrition.

With the lack of health workers, trained CBVs are playing a



conducting growth monitoring and promotion before the mother support group meeting.

One such CBV and health promoter is 47-year-old [REDACTED] who is attached to Mukuba Health Centre in Twalima community. Residents of this area cover more than nine kilometers to access health services. But Patrick’s presence in the community helps bring much-needed health education closer to the mothers so that they can raise healthy children.

[REDACTED] provides health education and counselling to mothers on recommended maternal and childcare practices. He is also a trained lead farmer with 12 follower farmers and advises on good farming practices, including preparation and utilization of foods that are locally grown to improve the nutrition status of mothers and children.

[REDACTED] oversees four SMSGs comprised of 15 women each for a total of 60 mothers. He is happy to see the uptake of health and nutrition messages and adoption of practices that are improving nutrition at household level.

“The women I work with have come to understand the importance of good nutrition, growth monitoring and promotion, early antenatal bookings and the importance of family planning,” he says. As a result of the lessons on improved childcare practices, I am seeing fewer malnourished children and diarrheal cases.”

The introduction of the SUN Mother Support Groups and the presence of CBVs in Twalima community has elated [REDACTED], a 23-year-old mother of two.



Beatrice Nyangwe, a 23-year-old mother of two with her 6-month old baby, Angela.

“I started attending the SUN Mother Support Group meetings in December 2020 and from the time I joined, I have learned a lot that I did not know. I have gained more information about breastfeeding and how to prepare nutritious meals for my children,” she says. “Before I started attending the meetings, I breastfed my baby six times in a day. Now I know to breastfeed my baby 8 to 12 times or more, and as long as the baby wants.”

“With my first-born child, I used to feed him only three times a day. But from attending the SUN Mother Support Group meetings I have learned to feed my children up to five times a day with a variety of foods.”

There are over 800 SUN Mother Support Groups in Kitwe. With her newly-acquired knowledge, [REDACTED] has been encouraging other mothers within her community to join the groups.

Kitwe's Misaka Community Celebrates Rehabilitated Borehole

Misaka Health Post is in Kitwe District located in Kamfinsa Ward, 31 kilometers south of the central business district, and serves 3,649 people. The borehole at the health post, the only clean water source for the facility and nearby community, has been non-functional for two years due to worn out pipes. The next available option has been a stream 600 meters away.

In line with its mandate of increasing access to clean and safe water, the USAID Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance (SUN TA) project, in partnership with the District Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education (D-WASHE) Committee, undertook a water needs assessment to identify boreholes, like the one at Misaka Health Post, needing rehabilitation and communities deserving new boreholes. Of priority are institutions such as schools and health facilities because of the large populations they serve. Through this process, Misaka was selected for rehabilitation.

Working with the D-WASHE Committee, SUN TA rehabilitated the borehole and handed it over the health facility committee in June 2021. A Village Water Sanitation and Health Education (V-WASHE) committee is in place to oversee the water facility long-term and ensure its operation and maintenance. To this end, the committee has devised a system of monthly community contributions to support repair and maintenance of the water facility. An Area Pump Mender (APM), who was trained as part of the wider SUN TA support to the community, will make sure the borehole is well-maintained for continuous operation.

Staff at the health facility are thrilled with the rehabilitated borehole. "We were spending a lot of time collecting water from the stream. We appreciate this support from USAID. The health facility now has readily available water which is clean and safe. This will even reduce diarrhea cases in the community," said Diana Nankamba, the health facility in-charge. Community members are also benefitting from the borehole. "I am very excited. We have suffered for too long drawing unsafe water from the stream and shallow wells" said Evelyn Zika.



To the left, the Misaka Health Post borehole before rehabilitation, and to the right, after rehabilitation.

Ndola's Madando Community Now Has Clean, Safe Water

Access to clean and safe drinking water is critical for health, nutrition, human dignity, and economic productivity. Some communities of Ndola District on the Copperbelt Province, including institutions such as health facilities and schools, do not have access to clean, safe water.

In response, the USAID Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance (SUN TA) project has partnered with the Government of Zambia, to rehabilitate old boreholes and construct new ones. And the Madando community in Chichele Ward is an early benefactor.

Located 20 kilometers from Ndola town, Madando's health post serves a population of 5,667. While the health facility is relatively new, having opened to the public in 2014, the borehole that was installed to supply water to the post and the surrounding farming community could not be utilized due to brown-colored water not fit for human consumption. Instead, the facility staff have relied on a school borehole 200 meters away, while the rest of the community used water from a nearby stream. As a reflection of this situation, health facility records show that from November 2020 to April 2021, there were 215 cases of diarrhea reported.

"Before the rehabilitation of this borehole, people were suffering from diarrhea because they did not have access to safe, clean drinking water. We had to walk 200 meters to the nearby school and sometimes 500 meters to get to the stream," says ██████████, a resident of Madando. "We thank USAID SUN TA for rehabilitating the borehole and giving people access to safe drinking water."

██████████, 44, is one of the community members benefitting from the newly rehabilitated borehole. ██████████ belongs to the SUN Mother Support Group, which the SUN TA Project uses to educate mothers on improved childcare practices including breastfeeding, food preparation, sanitation, hygiene and the importance of clean and safe water.

"The rehabilitation of the borehole is a huge relief to us as women," she said. We could not attend to other chores at home on time because of the long distance we covered to fetch water. Now the water is clear and safe. We thank the government through SUN TA for rehabilitating our borehole."

A 10-member (five women, five men) Village Water Sanitation and Health Education (V-WASHE) committee was formed and oriented on their roles and responsibilities, which include mobilizing local resources for the maintenance of the water point. Further, an Area Pump Mender was trained to undertake repair and maintenance of the borehole and ensure a regular supply of water.

By end of June 2021, SUN TA had rehabilitated 15 boreholes in Ndola, five of which have since been handed over to the communities. SUN TA is also set to drill 10 new boreholes that will further boost access to clean water for Ndola communities.



Before, ██████████ collected water from nearby stream. Now, she accesses clean, safe water from the rehabilitated borehole at the Madando Health Post.

SUN TA Restores Clean, Safe Water to Luwingu’s Kayoche Village

Kayoche village in Luwingu District of Northern Province is located 16 kilometers from the main town. It is home to 71 families whose main source of drinking water was a nearby stream for two years, a result of a borehole that broke down in 2019. According to the residents of Kayoche, the water from the stream was dirty and there suffered perennial diarrheal diseases.



However, with the help of the USAID-funded Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance Project (SUN TA), the situation in Kayoche Village has changed dramatically. Together with the District Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education (D-WASHE) Committee, SUN TA has identified boreholes in need of rehabilitation, much like the one in Kayoche, which the Project rehabilitated in April 2021 and handed over to the community in June.

██████████ mother of two and a resident of Kayoche village, says the rehabilitation of the borehole has cut the distance she previously walked to get water from the stream from 300 metres to 50 metres. But more importantly, Hellen and her household now have access to clean and safe water.

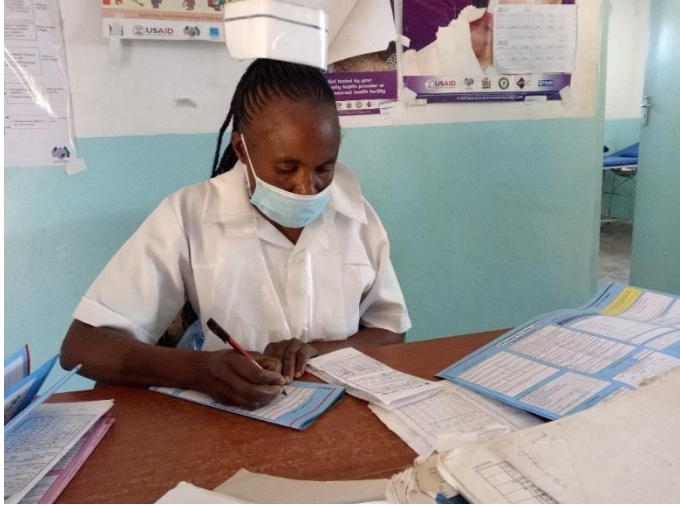
“I have lived in Kayoche village for one year and our source of water was the stream. The water was dirty, my children suffered from diarrhea every week but now I am happy that this borehole has started working and the water is clean. We thank SUN TA for this,” says ██████████

██████████ community has made financial contributions through the Village WASH Committee which will be used to maintain the borehole. In addition to repairing boreholes, SUN TA has also trained 17 Area Pump Menders who will undertake repair and maintenance of water points, as well as 34 community-based volunteers, known as community champions, who work with households to promote improved sanitation and hygiene.



Before and after: This borehole in Kayoche village was non-functional and abandoned for two years before SUN TA repaired it, thus restoring access to clean and safe water.

Health Staff and CBVs Work Together to Improve Maternal Outcomes in Chibombo



Health worker and MCH specialist, Dorothy Mungule, at work in Malambanyama Health Centre, Chibombo District.

██████████ is a nurse at Malambanyama Health Centre in Chibombo District, Central Province. She has worked there for 19 years, providing maternal and child health and nutrition care services to the surrounding communities.

In May 2020, the Ministry of Health selected ██████████ with support from the USAID-funded Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance (SUN TA) Project, to be trained in facilitating SUN Mother Support Groups (SMSG). The SMSG Model is a community-based strategy that SUN TA uses to teach mothers vital health information, with a focus on maternal and child health and nutrition.

Post-training, ██████████ organized a SMSG training for 18 community-based volunteers (CBVs) who later spread into the communities to mobilize mothers to join the SMSGs.

In the time ██████████ has worked at the health center, she recalls the challenges she faced trying to encourage pregnant mothers to start antenatal care visits as soon as they found out they were pregnant. As a result of lack of information, most mothers delivered at home rather than at the health facility with a skilled health professional.

However, since recruitment of the CBVs who have been trained and are now working in the community, Dorothy reports that the health center has recorded a marked increase in mothers who come for antenatal care and delivery.

“The work CBVs are doing with the mothers in the community has helped us increase institutional deliveries compared to earlier when most mothers delivered at home,” she said.

Community-based volunteers play an important role in the delivery of health services since they bridge the gap between health facilities and their communities and contribute to improving overall maternal and child health.

Dorothy appreciates the role the CBVs play in educating mothers in the communities on various health and nutrition issues, especially given the lack of health staff in rural areas.

As at end of June 2021, SUN TA had supported the training of 563 CBVs in Chibombo District ██████████ of Shichongwe village is one of them.

“Since we started having sessions with mothers in SUN Mother Support Group meetings, women in our area have started attending antenatal sessions and also want to deliver at the health center and so home

deliveries in our village have reduced,” she says. “In the meetings we emphasize the importance of going to the health center to access things such as antimalarials to protect the unborn child, folic acid, ferrous sulphate, deworming tablets and Vitamin A.”

The SUN TA Project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to support the implementation of the First 1000 Most Critical Days Program (MCDP II) and targets pregnant mothers and mothers with children under the age of two. Its objectives are to increase reliable access to safe and nutritious food through nutrition-sensitive agriculture, and intake of diverse nutrients to prevent stunting among children under two years. This is in line with USAID vision of a world free from hunger, malnutrition, and extreme poverty.



Ruth Chibale is a trained CBV working with mothers in her community. Here, she is harvesting vegetables from her garden, and encourages other mothers to grow a variety of foods for household consumption.

Providing Masks Encourages Women to Attend Maternal and Child Health Meetings

██████████ a 46-year-old mother of six from Mulenga township in Kitwe District and is one of the community-based volunteers (CBVs) the Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance (SUN TA) Project and the Ministry of Health trained in the SUN Mother Support Group (SMSG) model. The SMSG model is a community-based strategy the SUN TA project uses to deliver health information to mothers of children under two and pregnant women.

██████████ work entails meeting SMSG women in the community to promote maternal, infant and young child feeding, growth monitoring and promotion and family planning. In the era of COVID-19 where everyone is required to comply with prevention measures, she observed that some mothers came to meetings without masks. When their fellow mothers sent them back home to get masks, they didn't return, which meant they missed out on vital health information for themselves and their children.

“Together with other CBVs we decided to collect loose pieces of cloths from my neighbor who is a tailor. When her machine was free, I would make face masks that I gave to the mothers who came to the meetings without masks,” she says. “I also taught them how to use it and keep the masks clean. That made the women happy and motivated them to attend the meetings.”



One of the SMSG mothers demonstrating effective handwashing during a session.

COVID-19 has disrupted meetings/gatherings particularly at community level. In Charity's case, she leveraged the compliance side of the pandemic and came up with the idea to make masks available at all sessions, just in case someone forgot theirs, and used it as an opportunity to teach proper hygiene and sanitation practices.

██████████ says she is motivated to be a CBV because she feels satisfied helping other women care for their children. There is also a family experience to ██████████ work as a CBV. She says the training she got from SUN TA helped her grandchild who was born underweight at 1.7 kgs but is now healthy and active at two years.

As at end of June 2021, there were over 800 CBVs in Kitwe reaching out to thousands of mothers with messages and lessons on maternal and child health, including care during pregnancy, importance of antenatal and postnatal visits, breastfeeding, family planning, food preparation, and the importance of sanitation and hygiene, all aimed at ensuring healthy mothers and children.