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USAID SCALING UP NUTRITION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Quarterly Progress Report
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USAID SUN TA

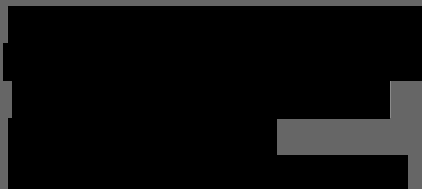


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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

A&E	Architectural and Engineering Firm
ANC	Antenatal Care
APM	Area Pump Mender
BHR	Rehabilitated Borehole
CBD	Community-based Distributor
CBV	Community-based Volunteer
CC	Community Champions
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CHW	Community Health Worker
CLTS	Community-led Total Sanitation
CSA	Climate Sensitive Agriculture
CSLG	Community Savings and Loan Group
DACO	District Agriculture Coordinator
DHIS2	District Health Information Software
DHO	District Health Office
DNCC	District Nutrition Coordination Committee
DTO	District Technical Officer
D-WASHE	District Water Sanitation and Health Education
EBF	Exclusive Breastfeeding
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EHT	Environmental Health Technician
FP	Family Planning
GNA	Good Nature Agro
GRZ	Government of the Republic of Zambia
HoD	Head of Department
IECD	Integrated Early Childhood Development
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IQC	Indefinite Quantity Contract
IT	Information Technology
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
MCDP II	1,000 Most Critical Days Program II
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation

MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MIS	Management Information System
MLGRD	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
MOH	Ministry of Health
MSME	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
MWDS	Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation
MUAC	Mid-Upper Arm Circumference
NBH	New Borehole
NFNC	National Food and Nutrition Commission
ODF	Open Defecation-Free
ORS	Oral Rehydration Salts
PEA	Private Extension Agents
PNCC	Provincial Nutrition Coordination Committee
Q2	Second Quarter
SAG	Sanitation Action Group
SATIH	USAID Southern Africa Trade and Investment Hub
SBC	Social and Behavior Change
SMSG	SUN Mothers Support Groups
STTA	Short-term Technical Assistance
SUN LE	USAID Scaling Up Nutrition Learning and Evaluation Project
SUN TA	Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNICEF	United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
V-WASHE	Village Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WDC	Ward Development Committee
WNCC	Ward Nutrition Coordinating Committee
WRS	Water Reticulation System
ZARI	Zambia Agricultural Research Institute
ZMW	Zambia Kwacha

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance (SUN TA) Project Quarterly Progress Report (Q2 2022) covers activities implemented between April 1 to June 30, 2022.

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 and 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 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 two 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 six months of age with recorded low birth weight, or a maternal mortality with surviving infant of under six 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

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 during Q2:

Agriculture & Livelihoods

In the village chicken value chain, 117 Demonstration Farmers sold 9,880 chickens (██████████) in sales to Follower Farmers who started their own village chicken enterprises. Additionally, 13,777-day-old chicks were bought by Demo Farmers using on-farm generated resources at a cost of ██████████ directly from private sector day-old chick suppliers, mainly from Zikhulu Nkuku and Heartland Best, underscoring the linkages created with the private sector.

Access to diverse, nutritious vegetables and biofortified crops and markets continued with 1,161 Lead Farmer led gardens supporting 19,433 (F: 15,894) Follower Farmers with now 37,011 (F: 25,781) farmers applying various improved agriculture management practices or technologies (use of certified seed, minimum tillage, crop rotation, and use of integrated pest management) covering 7,932 hectares, up from 4,586 last quarter.

The financial inclusion agenda continued to grow with 722 new Community Savings and Loan Groups (CSLGs) formed this quarter, bringing the project total to 2,778. The number of individuals participating in USG-assisted group-based savings, micro-finance, or lending programs increased by 7,675, bringing the cumulative number to 48,562. Correspondingly, the value of savings this quarter increased by ██████████ further raising the cumulative savings to ██████████ in Q1.

Private sector linkages have continued to grow as evidenced by the direct links between suppliers and farmers. The 12 field days held across the 13 districts provided an opportunity for suppliers of chickens, such as Zikhulu Nkuku and Heartland Best, to interact with 2,223 crop and poultry farmers who attended the events. Of the 2,223 farmers who attended, 2,078 reported using certified seed, 1,665 crop rotation, and 1,223 crop diversification, while in village chickens 44 used biosecurity hand and foot wash, 62 improved housing, 49 timely vaccinations, 40 their own farm feed formulation, and 30 an isolation sick bay.

Health & Nutrition

This quarter saw the formation of 1,304 SUN Mother Support Groups (SMSGs) across the 13 districts with a total membership of 20,194 members. Of this number, 4,069 were pregnant women (3,245 normal aged pregnant women and 824 were teenage pregnancies) and 16,125 mothers with children aged 0—24 months. This brings the cumulative number of all the SMSGs formed this year to 2,603 with a membership of 37,617.

Mothers in SMSGs received health and nutrition talks from community-based volunteers (CBVs). Some of the topics discussed included early attendance of antenatal clinics; importance of early initiation of breastfeeding; exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months of a baby's life; when to start complementary feeding; eating a diverse diet during pregnancy; and the importance of

communication and play for a sick or healthy child. The talks were integrated with CSLGs activities which are done at the end and are used to retain the mothers' interest as they are all eager to participate in money matters.

Delivery of community level family planning services continued to grow, with 1,806 Community Based Distributors (CBDs) reaching 96,757 clients, including 89,579 clients counselled on family planning and 1,419 referred to health facilities for family planning services not provided by CBDs at community level.

SUN TA also continued supporting Early Childhood Development (ECD) activities at community level across the 13 districts. The number of ECD corners rose from 90 in the first quarter to 146 this quarter. To continue expanding this service at community level, the project oriented 1,407 CBVs in ECD.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

The Project handed over 78 boreholes to communities across the 13 districts, providing clean and safe water to 35,726 people. In addition, 83 area pump menders (APMs) repaired/serviced 169 boreholes that benefitted 55,693 people with clean, safe water in the 13 districts. Borehole repairs and maintenance are integral to increasing access to water.

As a result of the promotion and scale up of the Community-led Total Sanitation (CLTS) activities, 113 communities were declared and certified open defecation free (ODF) by their respective provincial ODF Task Forces. Riding on the influence of traditional leaders, 96 Chiefs and their Traditional Councils were oriented in CLTS. To strengthen WASH programming within the government-led structures and complement existing systems, 10 Councillors were oriented and enlisted to support sanitation and hygiene behavior change in their localities and to act as change agents.

Through the monitoring efforts by the community and other sub-district level structures, including the traditional leadership, the project facilitated 400,857 people in 77,854 households to gain access to a basic sanitation service. Another 291,667 people benefited from access to basic handwashing facilities.

Cross-Cutting Activities

During Q2 2022, the Project engaged an independent consulting firm to conduct a quantitative mini/rapid survey on the SUN TA's result areas including the tracking of intermediate outcomes and outcome indicators. The study targeted women of reproductive age including SUN Mother Support Group members and Community Savings and Loan Group members. The results will be disseminated to Project technical staff and feed into the pause and reflect sessions, assist with work planning and future implementation, inform adaptive programming and intervention, and provide insights for geographical scale-up plans.

The remainder of this Quarterly Progress Report details second quarter achievements and milestones in greater detail, by component and cross-cutting areas. It is followed by an overview of Key Issues and Challenges and Planned Activities for Q3 2022. The report concludes with an Annex section

including of Annex A: Summary of Results; and Annex B: Success Stories collected during the Q2 2022.

SUN TA Welcomes USAID Administrator Samantha Power to Zambia

On her maiden visit to Zambia, the USAID Administrator Samantha Power visited the SUN TA Project in Chibombo District, among other USAID-funded projects, becoming the most senior U.S. government official to visit the Project. The Administrator's visit focused on the state of global food security and the United States government's efforts to address it. She visited two women farmers supported by SUN TA's agriculture and access to finance initiatives. Through their active participation in the Project, the two women ([REDACTED]) have distinguished themselves as Lead Farmers of various crops and community facilitators of loans and savings groups. These savings groups are increasing access to finance and entrepreneurship for women (see pictures on cover page and below).



PROJECT RESULTS BY COMPONENT

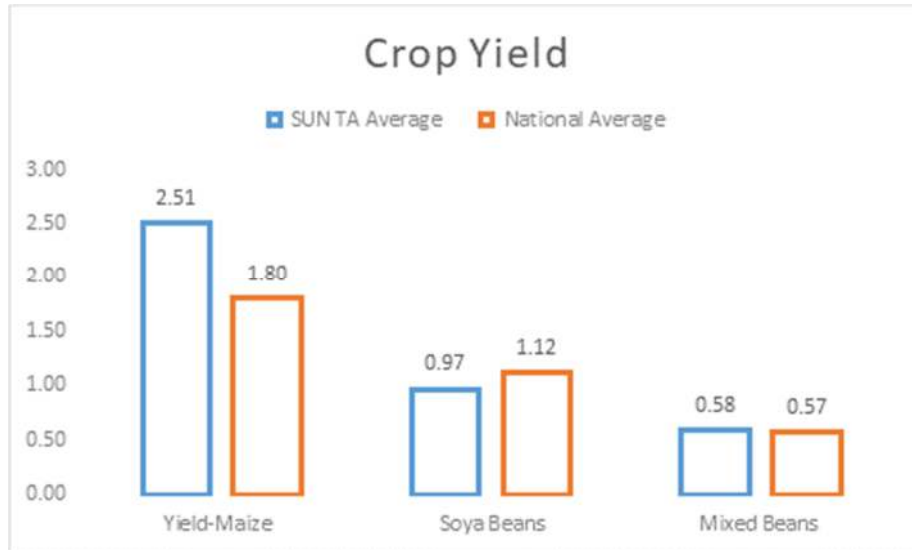
Agriculture & Livelihoods

The Agriculture and Livelihood component aims to increase reliable access to safe and nutritious food through nutrition-sensitive agriculture and financial inclusion. Access to safe and nutritious food is being achieved through production of diverse (nutrient-dense) vegetables, legumes, crops, and poultry at community and household levels using climate smart agriculture (CSA) practices to sustainably address household food, income, and nutrition security. Further, the Project will ramp up livestock (village chicken) interventions for both commercial and nutritional purposes by building on the groundwork laid in 2021 of identifying and training of Demonstration Farmers and setting up livestock (village chicken) demonstration sites (centers of excellence) to be used as farmer field schools.

The financial inclusion agenda through CSLGs has shown phenomenal results across districts as evidenced by the increased number of savings groups and the diversity of micro, small, and medium business enterprises (MSMEs). SUN TA will enhance the results with financial literacy to help saving clients make better use of their financial resources/services (savings, loans, and insurance). To roll-out these interventions, SUN TA will work with the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Ministry of Community Development, the newly established Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprise Development, and Ministry of Green Economy from national to district and community levels.

- Access to diverse nutritious foods:** During this reporting period, 95 active health facility gardens were used as centers of excellence for learning and knowledge sharing for mothers in 11 of the 13 districts: Mbala (21), Kaputa (19), Nchelenge (11), Mansa (9), Samfya (1), Kitwe (8), Mumbwa (8), Chibombo (5), Kasama (2), Luwingu (8) and Ndola (3). Pregnant and lactating mothers accessed vegetables during their health facility visits and during cooking demonstrations. Also, SUN TA is supporting 1,161 community gardens managed by 345 female and 816 male Lead Farmers. To increase animal sourced protein through the village chicken value chain, women in SUN Mother Support Groups have now gotten access to animal sourced proteins and have been exposed through cooking demonstrations on how to prepare chicken meat in different forms for infant and young child feeding.
- Lead Farmer community extension services:** This quarter, 108 Private Extension Agents (60 in Kapiri Mposhi, 25 in Chibombo, 11 in Kabwe, 5 in Kitwe, 4 in Ndola, and 3 in Mansa) have been recruited, up from 77 at end of 2021, and with 1,161 other Lead Farmers supporting this action. As a result of the provision of community-based agriculture extension services, 9,009 (F: 6,059) farmers applied improved management practices or technologies during Q2. The technologies include use of certified seed, minimum tillage, crop rotation, intercropping, and use of integrated pest management.
- Application of improved agronomical and climate smart practices:** The number of farmers applying improved management practices is now 37,011 (F: 25,781). This has led to an increase in hectares under improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance from 4,586 to 7,932 in Q2. To achieve social and behavior change in this area, SUN TA and the Ministry of Agriculture are encouraging farmers to apply these practices as

mitigation measures amid climate variability and risks due to changing rain patterns, rising temperatures, changes in pests and plant diseases, and general environmental degradation. These practices are helping to mitigate some of these risks and assist farmers as they work to maintain or increase productivity.



Ministry of Agriculture Crop Forecast indicate that SUN TA districts performed above average for maize and mixed beans for 2021/2022 season

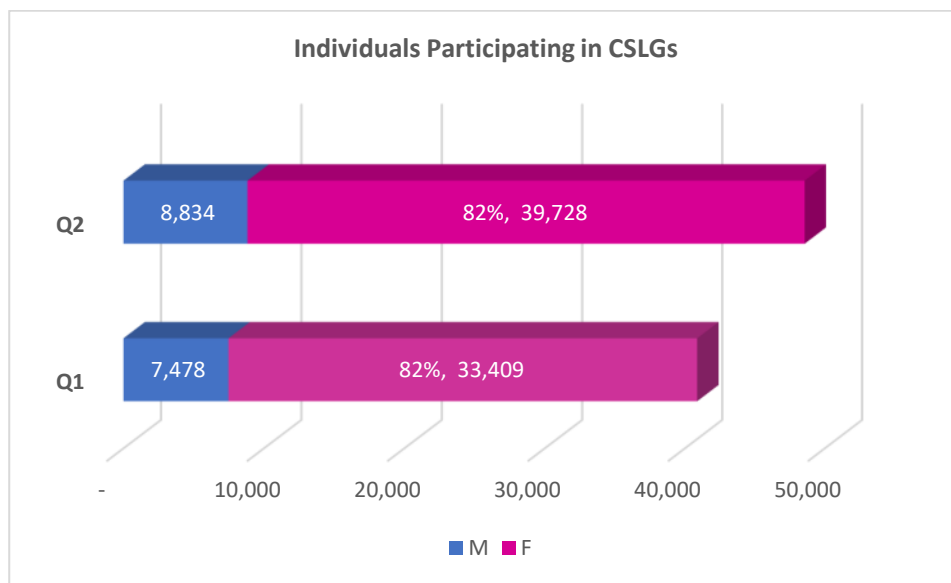
- Soybean Value Chain:** The 12,150 farmers who accessed inputs through Good Nature Agro (GNA) in the 2021/2022 planting season contributed [REDACTED] to agriculture financing this quarter. Loan recoveries just began at the end of the quarter and stood at 38 percent both in cash and in-kind.
- Village Chicken Value Chain:** The 112 Demo Farmers aggregated and sold 9,880 chickens raising [REDACTED] raised from sales to Follower Farmers as they started their village chicken enterprises.



Encouraged by the increase in sales, most farmers plan to reinvest and expand their operations. The 112 Demo Farmers are acting as centers of excellence where Follower Farmers are learning to raise chickens for the market. SUN TA supported the Demo Farmers with a ‘smart subsidy’ of 62,560 Kuroiler day-old chicks, up from 48,633 in Q1. The Demo Farmers are now reaching out to Follower Farmers in various ways: through training; by supplying chickens at a subsidized cost to the initial 10 Follower Farmers per Demo Farmer; and supplying feed and access to markets. So far 1,262 Follower Farmers (F: 802) have benefitted as follows: Mansa (922), Samfya (102), Nchelenge (63), Kitwe (31), Chibombo (362), Mumbwa (108), Kabwe

(58), Kapiri (85), Mbala (90), Kasama (110), Kaputa (35) and Luwingu (110). Of the 1,170 annual “farmer” target, 645 (F: 470) have already been supported with chickens, representing 55 percent of the target.

- Increasing access to finance and enterprises:** This quarter saw the formation of 722 new CSLGs, bringing the SUN TA total to 2,778 with a membership of 48,562. The value of savings this quarter increased by ██████████ last quarter. The increased access to financial services led to 5,496 new MSMEs established compared to 4,268 last quarter, an increase of 1,228. Of the total MSMEs established in 2022, 2,484 are in agriculture, 2,670 are in retail, and 342 are in groceries. The cumulative number of MSMEs now stands at 25,975. The take-home benefits continued to grow with 69 CSLGs sharing out ██████████ among 1,284 members.



- Financial literacy training:** SUN TA trained 109 (F: 53) GRZ staff in financial literacy. Roll-out to CBVs is underway and so far, 686 CBVs in Mbala (82), Nchelenge (293), Kitwe (199) and Samfya (112) have been trained as trainers in financial literacy, and will in turn, cascade it to community members in CSLGs, Follower Farmers and SMSGs. With the growth in savings and incomes among beneficiaries, the Project seeks to empower them with knowledge on budgeting, investment, and financial decision-making so that they can better utilize their monies.
- Private sector and farmer engagement through field-days:** The linkages that SUN TA has facilitated between the private sector and farmers continued to strengthen as suppliers are beginning to reach farmers directly. The 12 field days held across the 13 districts provided a platform for Zikhulu Nkuku, a supplier of day-old chicks, to pitch to the 2,223 crop and chicken farmers in attendance. Through a mini survey administered on the attendance sheet during the field days, of the 2,223 farmers who attended, 2,078 used certified seed, 1,665 crop rotation, and 1,223 crop diversification. Further, for village chickens, 44 farmers used biosecurity hand and foot wash, 62 improved housing, 49 timely vaccinations, 40 their own farm feed formulation, and 30 an isolation sick bay.

- Technical supportive field visits:** The Agriculture and Livelihoods team undertook various field technical and supportive visits during Q2. During the visits, the team found that farmers who received visits from Lead Farmers and agriculture extension staff had increased their use of improved technologies, especially use of biosecurity measures in their village chicken activity, brooding of day-old chicks resulting into low mortalities, use of certified seed, minimum tillage, composting (especially for vegetables), intercropping and crop rotation, and use of IPM in conformity to utilization of environmentally friendly technologies. This may be attributed to benefits seen through on spot technical advice, coaching, and mentorship of field staff and farmers. The technical team engaged with district staff in the Ministry of Agriculture and the DNCCs to encourage regular field monitoring —irregular visits have made reporting and regular environmental compliance checks difficult. To address the challenge on reporting, the team conducted a refresher for GRZ staff on data collection tools while the Project has also supported increased contact points via joint monthly program review meetings. The visits also revealed that monitoring has improved data aging status for the CSLGs online management information system (MIS). Most CSLGs are complying and monitored within 90 days to confirm continued existence of the CSLGs. This indicates that CSLGs are making a real difference in the lives of their beneficiaries and creating alternative livelihoods.

Nutrition & Health

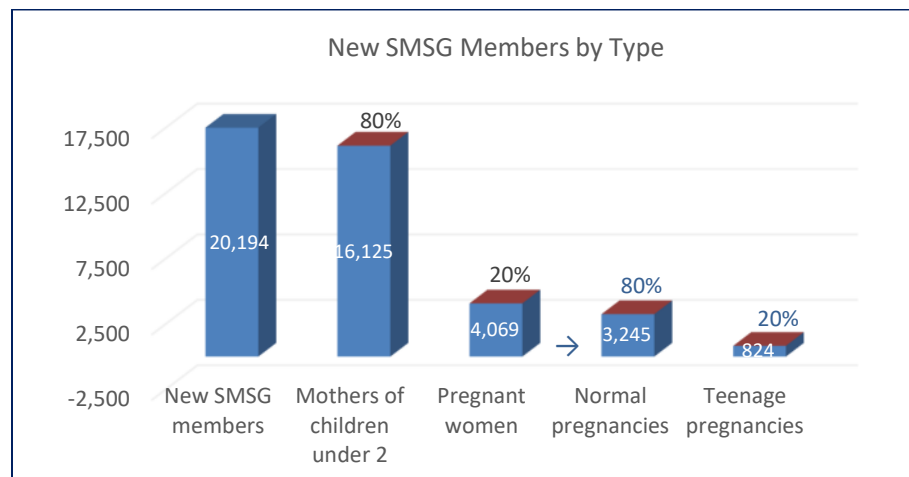
The Nutrition and Health component of SUN TA improves maternal, infant, and young child feeding (IYCF) and caring practices, as well as maternal and adolescent nutrition. SUN TA promotes nutrition-specific, high-impact interventions—maternal nutrition, early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breast feeding (EBF) for the first six months, complementary feeding, and systems strengthening for iron, folate and vitamin A



supplementation including diarrheal treatment with oral rehydration salts (ORS)/Zinc). The Project targets pregnant, breastfeeding women, pregnant adolescents, and children under two years, as well as delivery of community-level family planning interventions. This is being achieved by working with the Ministry of Health as lead implementer and other line ministries through the formation and operationalization of SUN Mother Support Groups within health facility catchment areas. This structure enables the Project to reach beneficiaries at household levels. Further, SUN TA supports integrated early childhood development (IECD) activities at the community and household levels to address stunting through nutrition-sensitive agriculture; improved WASH practices among caregivers; and promotion of responsive caregiving to help children in their first years of life. As the pacesetter for the other interventions, Nutrition and Health will support increased convergence and coverage by sharing data and coordinating with other thematic areas to

ensure that communities are covered with all SUN TA interventions. Also, the Project will continue to support community-based growth monitoring and promotional activities. The following are achievements for Q2:

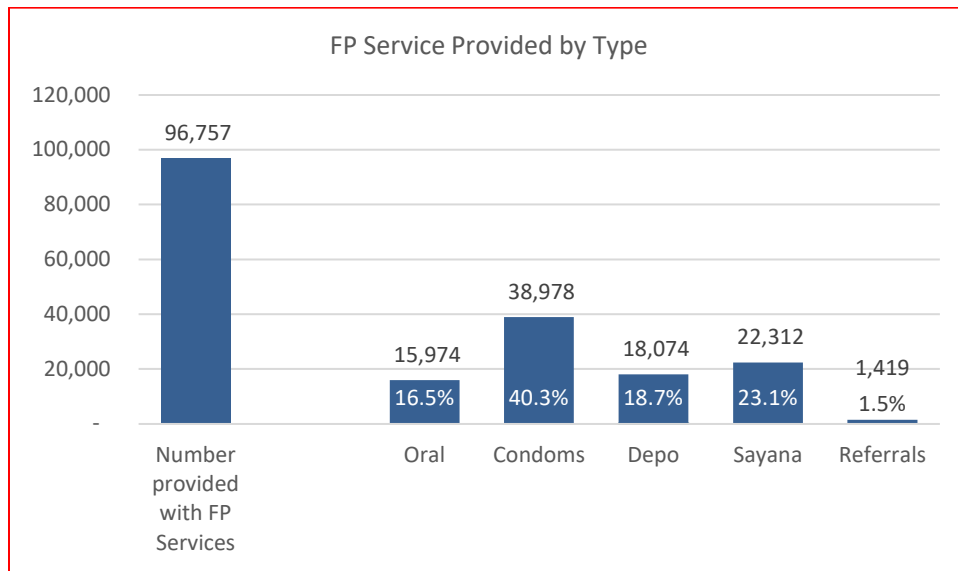
- SUN Mother Support Groups (SMSGs):** This quarter, SUN TA continued working with the Ministry of Health and CBVs and formed 1,304 new SMSGs with a membership of 20,194. Of these, 4,069 were pregnant (3,245 were normal aged and 824 were teenage pregnancies) and 16,125 women with children aged 0-24 months. Of the 3,245 pregnant women, 46 had a mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) below 21 cm, indicating malnutrition. The total number of SMSGs for Q1 and Q2 is now 2,603 with a membership of 37,617. As for the 16,125 children aged 0-24 months, 319 were 0-6 months of which 296 had low birth weights and 23 were vulnerable children resulting from maternal death. Through SMSGs, 44,615 mothers participated in health education sessions on nutrition specific topics such as importance of early antenatal care (ANC), appropriate age specific nutrient-dense diets, and the importance of diversified diets. Events and activities such as antenatal visits, under-five clinics, and child health weeks are being used to capture more members for SMSGs.



- Dietary diversity and economic empowerment for women:** To ensure mothers participate in all SUN TA activities that could positively impact their well-being, the Project linked 9,524 to agriculture and 8,247 participated in economic empowerment activities. Their participation in agriculture intends to increase their knowledge of agronomical practices so they can grow a diversity of foods, important for increasing nutrient intake. Health facility and community gardens continued as an avenue for mothers to get inspiration for growing nutritious foods. Access to finance is creatively being used to lure more eligible women to SMSGs. Given how popular savings groups have become among women, community facilitators attend SMSG sessions and discuss money matters at the end after all the health and nutrition discussions are exhausted. Therefore, women stay for the full length of the session until money is discussed.
- Community-level family planning services:** During the period under review, 1,816 community-based distributors (CBDs) reached 96,757 clients with family planning services. The services provided included: oral contraceptives (15,974); female condoms (3,345); male condoms (35,633); Depo (18,074); and Sayana (22,312). From the total number of clients provided with family planning services, 23,985 (F: 16,593; M: 7,392) were teenagers. Within the same period, 89,579 (F: 60,860; M: 28,719) family planning counselling, while 1,419 were

referred to health facilities for other family planning services not provided at community level. The presence of trained CBDs has increased the provision of family planning services at community level and some health centers are reporting a reduction in family planning visits, as anecdotally reported below:

- On a monitoring visit, the Luwingu DNCC learned that CBVs have reduced the work on health facility staff by providing family planning services at community level.
- “Women are happy that they do not have to walk long distances to access family planning products unless they are referred by the CBD.” - ██████████ CBD, Kamakuti Health Centre, Kabwe District.
- At Mulenga Health Centre in Kitwe District where the Project has trained 56 CBDs in family planning, Nutrition Technologist ██████████ said: “The work of CBDs has reduced the number of women coming for family planning as the service is available in their communities. This has also reduced the workload on health facility staff.”



- **Early Childhood Development (ECD) activities:** SUN TA has continued with the integration of ECD activities at health facilities and within SMSGs with the objective of increasing play and stimulation for children while creating opportunities for learning. The number of ECD corners increased from 90 in Q1 to 146 in Q2 across 108 health facilities. The number of CBVs initially trained in ECD was low compared to the bulk of work they were expected to execute. To address the gap, all districts have oriented more CBVs in ECD to broaden the reach. This quarter, 1,407 CBVs received ECD training and were added to the pool, increasing overall ECD activities.
- **Technical supportive field visits:** SUN TA undertook technical visits to all 13 districts to check on implementation and provide oversight. To encourage the convergence of all Project activities, technical visits no longer just focus on a respective thematic area but take a holistic view to ensure that all activities are converging and add to the overall impact. The visits presented an opportunity to see how reach and convergence could be deepened and how each

thematic area was reaching the same pool of SMSGs members. The visits included meetings with CBVs across thematic areas to help them appreciate the triangulation of membership and delivery of information to SMSG members. Technical visits also provided an opportunity for mentorship and coaching to district technical officers (DTOs) and CBVs, and a moment in time to share community feedback with district staff.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

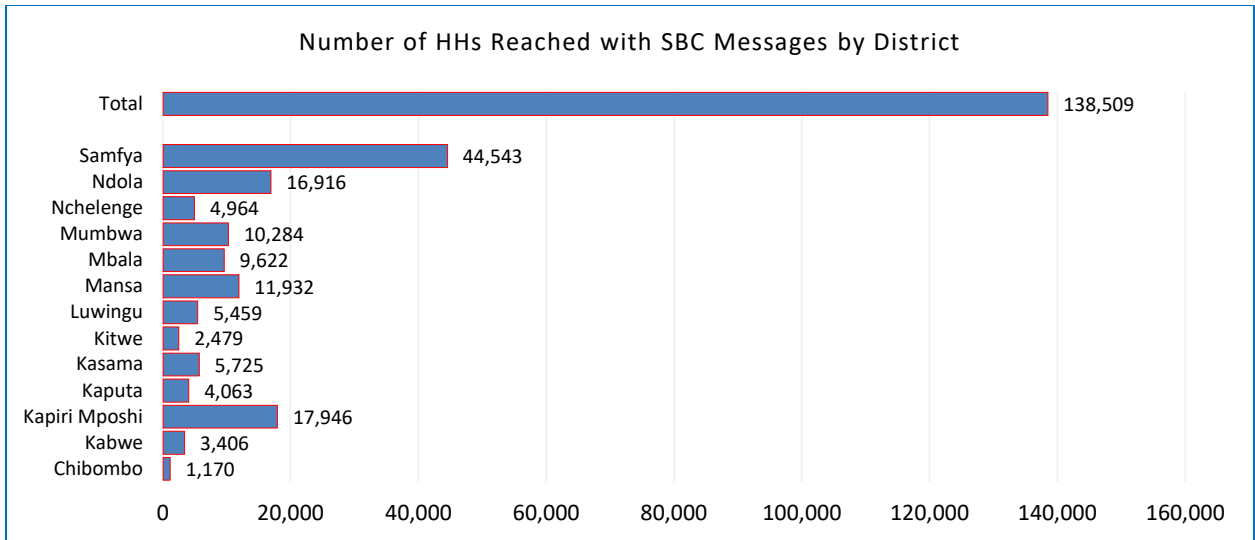
The SUN TA WASH component focuses on increasing access to safe water and reducing exposure to environmental pathogens that cause increased risk of diarrheal diseases and intestinal infections. This quarter, SUN TA worked with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) and Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation (MWDS) to increase access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene at household and community levels. In addition, the Project continued working with the districts to conduct routine water quality monitoring through testing and chlorination of water points and promoted home-based water treatment solutions such as boiling and use of chlorine and safe storage.


To encourage and lead communities to higher levels of sanitation, SUN TA also explored working with private sector operators for sanitation marketing and available sanitation products with a view of linking them to target households. Key achievements for Q2 include:

- **Hygiene promotion:** SUN TA and D-WASHE committees worked closely with trained Community Champions (CCs) and environmental health technicians (EHTs) to influence social and behavior change on personal hygiene, environmental hygiene, water treatment, and food hygiene. The CCs held community sensitization and door to door campaigns to encourage households to adopt positive hygiene behaviors such as ensuring that every latrine or toilet had handwashing facilities. As a result, 304,570 people benefited from handwashing stations constructed during the reporting period. The CCs and SAGs have continued nutrition-sensitive WASH messages to SUN Mother Support Groups to promote frequent and correct handwashing with soap before baby feeding, use of clean utensils during food preparation, and feeding as well as correct disposal of fecal matter.
- **Community-led Total Sanitation (CLTS):** 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.
 - **Mobilizing church, traditional, and civic leaders for CLTS:** SUN TA harnessed the power and influence of these individuals and institutions to mobilize communities and encourage adoption of improved sanitation and hygiene behaviors. The D-WASHE committees, through District Commissioners, wrote to 346 churches to urge them to help influence social and behavior change on improved sanitation and hygiene. Given their role in upholding beliefs, cultural values, and social tradition, churches are in a prime position to mobilize communities for behavior change on sanitation and hygiene. A case of exemplary leadership are the two chiefs in Kaputa - [REDACTED] - who host radio programs to rally people for good hygiene and sanitation behavior, and also receive feedback via live phone call-ins. To increase uptake of CLTS at community level,

the Project conducted chiefdom triggering and planning activities involving 96 chiefs and their respective Royal Councils: 12 in Nchelenge, 16 in Kasama, 9 in Mbala, and 59 in Kaputa. The aim was to enlist the support of traditional leaders in improving sanitation and hygiene in their chiefdoms. Further, 10 civic leaders (6 in Mbala, 2 in Nchelenge, and 2 in Kaputa) were also enlisted as they are a link between communities they represent and the Local Authorities, reporting back regularly through ward meetings and assisting the community in identifying needs and priority areas of development, which feeds into the municipality's planning processes.

- **Open Defecation Free (ODF) status:** There are 259 communities across 13 districts that claimed ODF, out of which 113 were verified and certified ODF by the respective provincial level ODF Task Forces. While 76 communities failed the provincial level ODF verification, 70 communities were still being verified as at reporting time. Verification of ODF status is carried out by the D-WASHE committees at district level and later by the Provincial ODF Task Forces which has the policy mandate to declare and certify villages ODF. One of the key drivers of the CLTS at the community level are the SAGs who have been equipped with basic hygiene tools to support the post triggering process led by the EHTs and Community Champions. Emphasis is placed on ensuring people achieve the dignity, privacy, health, and comfort that comes with improved sustainable sanitation and hygiene behavior change.
- **CLTS for new GRZ staff and community champions:** SUN TA facilitated the orientation of 41 GRZ staff (9 in Kapiri Mposhi, 9 in Kaputa, 2 in Kasama, 2 in Mbala and 19 in Ndola) who were recently deployed following staff changes. This ensures that new staff have a good understanding of CLTS and effectively support Project implementation.
- **Sanitation Action Groups (SAGs):** SUN TA continued increasing community capacity for sanitation and hygiene with the formation of 827 SAGs and orientation on their roles and responsibilities. The increase in SAGs resulted from clearing the backlog of the previously formed SAGs that had not received training at the time of formation. These orientations enabled SAGs to oversee and follow-up the construction and use of adequate latrines to attain ODF status in all 13 districts. The new SAGs will be useful in helping communities maintain their ODF status and sustain the changes gained through social and behavior change (SBC) activities.



- **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) to contain the spread of the virus.
 - **Borehole rehabilitation/reconstruction:** SUN TA handed over 50 boreholes previously rehabilitated at the end of 2021 to various communities in Mumbwa (30), Mansa (10), and Kapiri Mposhi (10), providing access to clean and safe water to 15,985 people. In addition, all districts completed borehole assessments to be considered for rehabilitation in 2022. A total of 698 water points were assessed out of which 659 passed their pre-construction water quality analysis. The Project formed and trained 50 V-WASHE committees on water point management and care. The trained committee members are responsible for the maintenance of water points and their surroundings, and collection of the agreed monthly user fees as a contribution toward operation and maintenance.
 
 - **New boreholes:** During the reporting period, SUN TA completed and handed over 28 new boreholes to communities, providing clean and safe water to 19,741 people. The cumulative number of completed water points stands at 153 completed out of an expected

150. For the 2022 new water points, the geophysical (siting) survey has since been completed by the A&E Firm (Rankin Engineering) for 112 sites.

- **Construction of solar-powered community water points:** Bid proposals for Water Reticulation System (WRS) drilling and construction have undergone final commercial and cost evaluation and due diligence. Office site visits of proposed vendors were also carried out. Inspection of projects referred to in bidders' past performance will be undertaken in July and recommendations for preferred bidders finalized. A Task Order for the Design, Siting and Quality Control of the WRS has been sent to the USAID Contracting Officer for review and approval.
- **Borehole repair and maintenance:** SUN TA continued supporting the trained APMs in their delivery of borehole repair works in communities with nonfunctional boreholes. Further, the Project trained 13 APMs, adding to the existing cadre of 366 to support the maintenance of water points. Equipped with the necessary skills and tools, the APMs were available and utilized at community-level for timely repair and maintenance of hand pumps across districts. They repaired and serviced 169 boreholes, which benefited 55,693 people with clean and safe water across the 13 districts.
- **Quarterly water quality testing:** In its quest to continue supporting the provision of safe, clean water, the Project conducted quality water testing of 35 boreholes on all 10 parameters: health related parameters (arsenic, lead, fecal coliform, fluoride, and nitrate) and operational-related parameters (electrical conductivity, total dissolved solids, pH, turbidity, and iron). Ten of the boreholes showed a presence of fecal coliforms and were to be chlorinated as a remedy. The remaining 25 passed on all the parameters. For chemicals, all the boreholes were within allowable limits. Quarterly water quality testing ensures that water quality is maintained year-round, and a remedial plan is in place for cases where unacceptable water quality has been detected.
- **Technical Supportive Field Visits:** SUN TA conducted technical support visits to all 13 districts to provide supervision and improve programming, including increased knowledge and skills for both staff and stakeholders. Meetings were held with respective D-WASHE committees, traditional leaders, and community members to review district performance and identify promising practices, pinpoint priority improvement areas, and suggest related actions. Post-visit, the districts received written reports summarizing the findings and recommendations to be taken to address specific priority areas. There was a new commitment to provide leadership on the Project by GRZ HoDs from meetings with the Kasama Town Clerk and District Director of Health. The Town Clerk directed the Director of Public Health to ensure that staff were attached to the Project to provide leadership and own the program.

“Let me make a commitment and put it on record that I will personally work to see a change in the narrative for Kasama. We will be reaching out to SUN TA and together we will work to address issues that have been affecting the implementation process. Be rest assured that all the issues raised will be addressed.” – ██████████ Kasama District Health Director.

Cross-Cutting Activities

- **Coordination support meetings:** SUN TA facilitated and participated in various planning and coordination meetings at district and provincial levels. During the period under review, the

Project worked with the PNCCs and DNCCs to coordinate implementation by line ministries, functionality of the WNCCs, GRZ support toward nutrition programs using the CDF funds, and review and realignment of activities. In addition, SUN TA supported the DNCCs/WNCCs teams to review the Geographical Mapping Tool to enforce convergence of interventions at ward, catchment, and household levels. Further, the Project worked with DNCC members from different line ministries to strengthen WNCCs through re-orientation on MCDP II activities and their roles and responsibilities. This was necessary to bring understand especially to new members, who are government staff recently posted to new areas.

Furthermore, the Northern PNCC led by the Permanent Secretary visited Kaputa district to familiarize themselves with the SUN program and conducted a joint field visit with the DNCC. The visits by the PNCCs to the districts have helped them understand how the program operates and how they can help resolve some implementation challenges. For districts that were in SUN 1 (such as Kaputa), the involvement of the PNCC is new—previously, the provincial level was not involved.

- **Social and Behavior Change:** SUN TA continues to implement its social and behavior change strategy aimed at reducing barriers to the adoption and maintenance of behaviors that prevent stunting among children under two. To achieve this, the Project supports GRZ with various interventions under the four pillars, targeting primary and secondary audiences:
 - **SUN Happy Home Campaign:** This quarter, the Project participated in the National Communications and Advocacy TWG. The SBC Specialist made a presentation to the Communications and Advocacy TWG on the ‘Happy Home’ Campaign to solicit feedback on the approach. The campaign was welcomed as comprehensive. The Communications and Advocacy TWG requested the SUN TA SBC Specialist give a presentation on SBC in general at the next meeting so that new members, especially from GRZ line ministries, can be abreast on the approach. Also, SUN TA engaged USAID who provided comprehensive feedback on the campaign. Next quarter, the Project will finalize the campaign strategy and begin roll-out.
- **National Events and Commemorations:** SUN TA leverages platforms created through commemoration events to support the government in raising awareness and reach target audiences with priority messages.
 - The Project supported the mid-year Child Health Week Campaign across all 13 districts with fuel and allowances for CBVs. During this campaign, CBVs measured children under two years old heights to monitor for stunting, among other data. At the time of reporting, the was not ready. However, the Project contributed by reminding the MOH to collect height measurements as an important data point.
 - Districts in the Copperbelt Province participated in the Zambia International Trade Fair. This followed the District and Provincial shows where participants demonstrated how the various SUN TA interventions were impacting their communities. The Project supported the Ministry of Agriculture to facilitate the participation of nine Lead Farmers (F: 6; M: 3) and community facilitators during the Provincial Agriculture and Commercial Show in Kitwe under the theme *“Innovation through Technology: Technology Transformed Business.”* The Lead farmers and community facilitator were selected during the district agriculture expo which took place in Ndola at the Trade

Fairgrounds. Across other targeted districts, SUN TA-supported participants took part in the district and provincial shows, receiving several first-place awards for exhibitions.

- SUN TA participated in the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation TWG meeting to track progress on interventions and other contributions by WASH stakeholders. The Project made a presentation highlighting its WASH work and how it was supporting and working with GRZ structures across districts. One observation made was the need for the Ministry to improve its reporting systems as it was noted that most of the activities implementing partners were doing were not known at the national level.
- The Project participated in the provincial validation meetings for the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation in the development of the 2022 National Water Policy. During this meeting, participants established that the water policy required alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); the revised National Decentralization Policy of 2014; amalgamation of two water policies from 2010 and 2020 into one; and ultimately the amended Republican constitution. The meeting also helped inform SUN TA participants about the latest developments in WASH.
- In Ndola, the District Communication and Advocacy made a presentation to the City Council's Public Health Committee on the goal of SUN TA, providing an overview of its thematic areas of interventions and delivery mechanisms, with a view of getting increased buy-in from civic leaders. The DNCC vice chairperson explained the SUN TA Project and its coverage in the district. The Public Health Committee is the subcommittee of the Council of Civic Leaders. In attendance were ward councilors, council employees, and other stakeholders. In response, two ward councilors from outside the Project's targeted areas requested that SUN TA expand its WASH interventions to their wards.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING (MEL)

MEL is a critical component of SUN TA, 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. The SUN TA MEL system is custom designed to receive data inputs from implementation districts and communities. Where there are capacity gaps and system weaknesses, SUN TA builds capacity and strengthens the existing systems.

- **Data collection and verification:** With the participation of the DNCC M&E Technical Working Groups, all districts continued with the routine data collection and verification exercises and the results fed into the district monthly program review meetings, monthly and quarterly reporting, as well as updating the indicator data in the DHIS2. To improve the quality of data from communities, CBVs continue to be mentored and oriented on the data collection tools.
- **Joint monitoring visits by DNCCs and PNCCs:** All districts conducted at least one monitoring visit to the catchment and community structures. The joint monitoring visits typically involved program focal point persons from the line ministries and SUN TA technical staff. The visits also provided a common appreciation of the multi-sectoral approach to program implementation which have enabled provincial and district structures to experience

achievements and challenges. The following are examples of joint monitoring activities conducted and their outcomes:

- In Kabwe District, the MEL Technical Working Group and Ward Nutrition Coordinating Committee conducted joint monitoring visits to five high performing and five low performing catchment areas in terms of report submission, data storage, and management and this resulted in the appreciation of factors facilitating and inhibiting data quality.
- In Mbala District, a joint monitoring visit by the PNCC and the DNCC to two catchment areas revealed that the line ministries were still working in silos and this negatively affected the achievement of convergence of services and benefits. The monitoring visit also revealed that the Project reach was very low when compared to the catchment population. To address these gaps, it was resolved that the Head of Departments would be asked to closely supervise the focal point persons especially in participating in DNCC activities. The district will also ensure that the geographical reach and mapping tool introduced by SUN TA is applied fully to ensure convergence of interventions.
- In Luwingu District, the DNCC chairperson commended SUN TA for supporting joint monitoring visits as it helps in monitoring and improving data quality and ensures that the tools are available for the facility staff. Further the DNCC recognized that such visits help in fully appreciating the challenges faced by facility staff and CBVs in implementation and reporting.
- The DNCC in Kaputa undertook a joint visit with SUN TA DTOs by visiting SUN Mother Support Groups and witnessed group sessions including a cooking demonstration. The meeting also included a CSLG facilitator, a Lead Farmer, and SMSG members who were encouraged to join or form a CSLG and/or become Follower Farmers. The meeting also disseminated messages on the importance of converging all interventions at community and household level.
- **Program and data review meetings:** All districts conducted program review meetings covering April, May, and June. The meetings have evolved and adapted to emerging Project needs and now include participation from the District M&E Technical Working Group and an analysis of catchments to establish convergence, identify catchments that have reached service saturation as well as catchments that need to ramp up activity implementation. As part of the on-going collaboration between SUN LE and SUN TA, selected program review meetings were attended by the SUN LE Learning and Dissemination Advisor who will advise on how to strengthen this learning platform. District stakeholders have continued to place value and demonstrate appreciation for the program review meetings in enhancing data management and learning.

“Ever since we started incorporating the M&E TWG members in our data review meeting, the District Health Information Officer has been providing information whenever hard copies are delivered at the DHO. This has helped to enhance data verification and we are able to trace data even at the district level. The level of commitment and dedication exhibited by the M&E Technical Working Group chairperson and coordinator is also showing positive indication that members are beginning to understand the project and indicators well.” [REDACTED]

Chibombo District Health Director

- Scaling-up the digitalization of data capture:** In Q1, SUN TA conducted a training of facilitators for the implementation of a digital platform for data collection and reporting and prior to this had procured 1,420 smart phones to be used by catchment level government officers in data transmission. This followed documented data quality challenges especially around report timeliness. During Q2, the Project scaled- up the initiative in all catchments targeting government officers managing health and nutrition, agriculture, and WASH data. Government workers totaling 1,078 comprised of agriculture extension workers, EHTs and nurses were oriented on DHIS2, data entry, and reporting with the application of the digital facility. Those trained included EHTs, focal point nurse for health/nutrition, focal point nurse for WASH, and Camp Extension Officers who were equipped with mobile phones for data submission. To achieve buy-in, the district Head of Departments were part of the trainings and handed over the phones to their respective officers. In Ndola, the training was witnessed by the District Health Director, the Principal Technologist, and the Chief Environmental Technologist. From the national level, the NFNC M&E Specialist was part of the trainings in Mumbwa, Kapiri Mposhi, Mansa, and Luwingu. This was important as the Project's MIS will be integrated with the nutrition MIS once operational.

In Kaputa District, both the District WASH Coordinator and the DACO welcomed the digitalization of data entry from the facility/catchment level and encouraged the sub-district staff to use it as an opportunity to improve the process and quality of data collection. Furthermore, the Nchelenge DHO made a request for SUN TA to allow the health facility staff to use the supplied mobile phones to report into the Ministry of Health Management Information System.

- Mini survey:** SUN TA engaged an independent consulting firm to conduct a quantitative mini/rapid survey on the Project's result areas including the tracking of intermediate outcomes and outcome indicators. The study targeted women of reproductive age including SUN Mother Support Group members and CSLG members. The study design employed remote data collection methods as at the time of study design, the country was under COVID-related restrictions that limited physical interactions. A total of 1,200 phone interviews were conducted and at the end of Q2, data analysis had been finalized and preliminary results shared. The results will be disseminated to Project technical staff and feed into the pause and reflect sessions, assist in planning for future implementation, and inform adaptive programming and intervention and geographical scale-up plans. The quantitative results will be triangulated and enhanced with the qualitative study of SUN TA beneficiary perceptions on interventions reach, quality of services/products and potential for impact. This follow up study has been commissioned and a consultancy firm identified at the close of the quarter under review.
- Internal Data Quality Assessment:** The MEL team conducted a Project level data verification exercise in Kabwe, Kapiri Mposhi, Ndola, Samfya, Kasama, Kasama, and Luwingu districts for the following indicators:
 - Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance
 - Number of hectares under improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance
 - Number of individuals participating in USG-assisted group-based savings, micro-finance or lending programs

4. Number of pregnant women reached with nutrition-specific interventions through USG-supported programs
5. Number of children under two (0-23 months) reached with community-level nutrition interventions through USG-supported programs
6. Number of USG-assisted community health workers (CHWs) providing Family Planning (FP) information, referrals, and/or services during the year
7. Number of people gaining access to basic drinking water services as a result of USG assistance
8. Number of people receiving improved service quality from an existing basic drinking or safely managed water service as a result of USG assistance
9. Number of people gaining access to a basic sanitation service as a result of USG assistance

The exercise aimed to establish accuracy and consistency of reporting for selected indicators, identify good practices and areas of weakness, and provide on-site technical support in data management. The results and recommendations will be disseminated to the M&E team for reflection and uptake and the exercise will be extended to the remaining districts in Q3.

- **Evidence of convergence:** An analysis of activity data from eight districts revealed that SUN TA is moving toward achieving convergence via its multi-sectoral approach:
 - 69 percent of the health facility catchment areas now have interventions, services, and products from all the four project pillars, i.e., agriculture, livelihoods, health and nutrition, WASH. The Project has already commenced strategies for scaling up to the remaining catchment areas.
 - 98 percent of the district-led community level activities, including monitoring and supportive supervision and data verification activities, had government representatives from all line ministries/departments. This is a remarkable shift as in the beginning these were typically implemented by SUN TA staff.
 - 76 percent of community level activities (e.g., meetings/orientations/review meetings) had representation of CBVs from all thematic areas. The Project recognizes the need to facilitate community level joint activities among the community structures and this has been demonstrated in the integration of WASH, agriculture, and livelihood sessions in SMSG activities and with time, more will be achieved.
- **Demonstrating government uptake of project activities:** Provincial Nutrition Coordinating Committees (PNCC) undertook several activities to support the District Nutrition Coordinating Committee (DNCCs). In Central Province, a mapping of the various nutrition stakeholders at provincial, district, and sub-district levels was conducted. During these visits, GRZ provided motor vehicles and drivers for more than a month to implement these activities while SUN TA provided fuel and allowances. This mapping identified linkages for collaboration between various implementing partners through the DNCC. In Chibombo District, MKP Farms expressed interest to engage SUN TA-supported Lead Farmers and Follower Farmers in an outgrower scheme for orange fleshed sweet potatoes veins. Until these meetings, IPs were working in silos without accountability to the District Administration. All sanitation activities in Zone 1 have been implemented with the GRZ providing motor vehicles and venues for the

meetings while SUN TA providing fuel and allowances. Notable activities include the Public Private Partnerships (PPP) for sanitation marketing and Provincial level ODF monitoring. This trend is growing across all districts and is a good sign of government showing leadership and providing resources.

- **Collaboration with SUN LE:** SUN TA continued to interact with SUN LE through monthly meetings to share updates on activities, achievements, and upcoming activities related to research and learning. A key feature to the meetings is the identification of areas for collaboration and implementation. During Q2, the two projects collaborated on the following:
 - *SUN/MCDP II mid-term evaluation:* Having earlier reviewed and provided input during the design phase for the study including the survey protocol and questionnaire, SUN TA participated in the training of enumerators at national level and provided logistical and technical support during district level stakeholder sensitizations to the study and at ward level to specifically sensitize community structures in the sampled enumeration areas.
 - *Learning forum:* As the Project base years draw to a close, the two projects are increasingly exploring the prospect of a joint learning event to focus on intervention strategies, assumptions/evidence behind the adoption of the strategies, lessons from implementation and opportunities for scale-up. The event is planned for Q3.
 - *SUN economic analysis:* The Project provided input to the Data Availability Assessment template for the protocol design of the SUN Economic Analysis on Program Indicator and Expenditure Data. SUN TA is also committed to providing further support to the study as the activity progresses to the implementation stage.
 - *Programme review meetings:* The SUN LE Learning and Dissemination Advisor attended selected district program review meetings and will advise on how the SUN TA and SUN LE can maximize on the monthly events to strengthen programmatic learning.

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 reporting period, check-in meetings were held with USAID who provided strategic direction, and SUN TA provided implementation updates. In addition, WASH monthly updates were held with the team. The SUN TA regional offices continued interacting with USAID regional staff on a weekly basis to provide updates on implementation status.
- **Meeting with NFNC:** SUN TA, alongside UNICEF and GIZ, participated in a meeting called by NFNC to discuss 2023 MCDP II planning, programming, and coordination issues. SUN TA, GIZ, and UNICEF requested NFNC to help coordinate and improve the participation of line ministries in the alignment of the national planning process while emphasizing sub-district structures such as the WNCCs.
- **SUN Cooperating Partners' Meeting:** This quarter, SUN TA continued its participation in the monthly meetings as one of implementing partners of the SUN 2.0 Program. Meetings

discussed various SUN issues including implementation challenges across the SUN 2.0 districts, and steering committee role and future handling of such meetings among the many issues. In May 2022, the Project presented its programming approaches and successes for 2021 and received positive feedback from stakeholders.

- **USG collaboration:** SUN TA continued working with the USAID Local Impact Governance Activity Project to encourage close coordination between Ward Development Committees (WDCs) and Ward Nutrition Coordinating Committees (WNCCs).

PROGRAM AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The SUN TA 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.

- **Human Resources:** The staff head count at the end of Q2 increased to 151 compared to 143 in Q1. SUN TA is currently comprised of 94 male and 57 female staff. The staff turnover included 17 recruitments and 9 voluntary separations. Most of the staff recruited were District staff.
- **Administration:** The Project's Zone One Regional Office in Kabwe is moving into new space courtesy of the Zambia Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI). The USAID Southern Africa Trade Investment Hub (SATIH) Project permanently transferred ownership of furniture and equipment to SUN TA and the furniture will be used in the Kabwe Regional Office. SUN TA disposed used tyres to schools in Lusaka and the districts.
- **Procurement:** The Procurement Department undertook several purchases of goods and services to support Project implementation. The team worked on 107 fully executed release orders under blanket framework agreements, 167 requests for payment, and 135 firm fixed priced purchase orders for various Project needs. Strategic milestones included receipt of the India Mark II handpumps and India Mark II stainless steel pipes for the 2022 NBHs and BHRs. In addition, the team finalized the competitive process to award six (6) Indefinite Quantity Contracts (IQC) for the 2022 Borehole Rehabilitation: Services for Rural Water Supply in Central, Copperbelt, Luapula and Northern Provinces and commenced on a competitive solicitation process for the 2022 Confirmatory Siting, Borehole Drilling and Installation contract for solar powered submersible pumps, overhead tanks and stands, distribution network and associated facilities.
- **Finance & Compliance:** The Finance department continued to provide support to the Project in all districts. The recruitment of a substantive Director of Finance has reached advanced stages and will be concluded soon. In the interim, STTA support was provided from the former USAID-funded Southern Africa Seed Trade Project.
- **Information Technology:** The IT team commenced preparations for the installation of IT services in the two regional offices that will be moving into new premises in Kabwe and Kasama next quarter.

- **SUN TA Small Grants:** During Q2, the Grants team received six responses to the Request for Application call. The Project anticipates selection of recipients next quarter with anticipated grant awards of up to [REDACTED]

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

SUN TA has an Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan and a Water Quality Assurance Plan that guide the Project's adherence to environmental concerns. As it implements its activities, SUN TA endeavors to ensure that its activities respect local and international laws and best practices to preserve the environment.

- **Agriculture:** The Project promoted technologies that support climate smart agriculture technologies including conservation tillage, liming, rotation of legumes and maize, soybean production, on-farm demonstrations of the safe use of herbicides (mostly for soybeans), use of certified seed, and general crop diversification. Training of village chicken Demonstration and Anchor Farmers continued including the use of disinfectants, vaccines/drugs, as well as disposal of disinfectants and vaccines.

Additionally, SUN TA trained 12 agriculture field staff as trainers to promote rational/responsible use of pesticides and adoption of IPM by creating awareness of social, economic, and environmental impacts and incentives. The Project has an ongoing training program for GRZ staff and Lead farmers. The technical team has continued to monitor, backstop, mentor, coach, and provide on-spot advice to Lead Farmers and Follower Farmers, and train Lead farmers on proper disposal procedures for spray washings (water used to wash knapsack sprayers after spraying was emphasized to reduce risk of water contamination through drainage channels). Lead Farmers engaged on the use of and promotion of bio-organic fertilizer through demonstrations to improve soil quality, soil fertility, and soil structure. There is ongoing training in the re-use of on-farm waste through composting and promotion of manure teas to improve crop nutrition.

SUN TA has continued to engage private sector partners involved in the supply of inputs for both rain fed and irrigated crops by providing appropriate information to farmers about safe handling and reduced contamination exposure related to treated seed, pesticides, and herbicides

During Q2, the Project 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). SUN TA, through Lead Farmers and Private Extension Agents, has continued promoting the cultivation of leguminous crops for soil nitrogen fixation with an emphasis on adopting an effective cropping cycle involving soybeans, groundnuts, and beans.

- **Health & Nutrition:** The Project continued urging CBVs to ensure all activities protected the environment through the safe disposal of waste resulting from cooking demonstrations and used family planning products (condoms, oral contraceptive packets, used syringes and needles). Upon dispensing family planning products, CBVs advise recipients individually and in SMSG meetings on appropriate disposal through use of refuse pits, pit latrines for

condoms and used oral packets, as well as placing used syringes and needles in sharp boxes for safe disposal by health facility staff. The safe disposal of such waste also ensures that it doesn't pollute children's play area.

- **WASH:** This quarter, SUN TA conducted water quality testing for all new and rehabilitated boreholes, demonstrating water was suitable for human consumption, and both rehabilitated and new boreholes are constructed with soak away pits and drainages. Further, the Project has continued supporting households in all 13 districts to ensure latrines are built 30 meters away from water points through Community Champions. All V-WASHE committees have continued to effectively manage (operation and maintenance) of water points including external waste management and risks associated with groundwater contamination.

KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- **Delays in water quality test results:** The Project experienced delays to receive water test results due to a two-week breakdown of water testing equipment at Alfred Knight Laboratory. This delayed 10 percent of the confirmatory water testing results which have led to delayed handovers of completed and approved boreholes.
- **Turnover of GRZ staff:** Implementation of activities continued to be impacted negatively by transfers of government staff both at district and sub-district levels. This negatively affected the supervision and monitoring of interventions at field level. Many of the government staff who have been trained by and worked with SUN TA keep being moved. This continues to create capacity gaps and slows down activity implementation.
- **Lack of GRZ transport:** In all 13 districts, transport difficulties have proved a major impediment, inhibiting GRZ staff to implement and monitor activities. This has become a common bottleneck, slowing the pace at which GRZ takes over SUN TA led activities. The inadequate transport reduces regular contact with sub-district and community structures ultimately hampering proper post-training follow-ups and cascading activities.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

Planned Activities	2022		
	Jul	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
Annual work planning for 2023		X	
Agriculture & Livelihoods			
Continue with formation and expansion of CSLGs	X	X	X
Monitor and mentor CSLGs members to establish viable enterprises	X	X	X
Train identified micro, small, and medium enterprises in entrepreneurship and business management	X	X	X
Continue working and encouraging the Demonstration Farmers to support set up and growth of Follower Farmers with training, feed, vaccines, drugs, and chickens	X	X	X
Continue supporting Demonstration Farmers in developing marketing structures either through aggregators and/or livestock cooperation or association through business groups that are developing	X	X	X
Continue roll-out of financial literacy training and information	X	X	X
Continue building capacity of Village Chicken Demonstration & Follower Farmers in improved chicken management, marketing, and general business practices	X	X	X
Intensify market linkages for the village chickens, looking at both backward (agro dealers, day old chick suppliers) and forward (buyers or off takers) linkages	X	X	X
Continue supporting and expanding community gardens	X	X	X
Continue supporting existing health facility gardens	X	X	X
Monitor performance of community and health facility gardens	X	X	X
Continue monitoring the soybean farmers' repayments for the 2021/2022 season	X	X	X
Start recruitment of Soybean Farmers for the 2022/2023 farming season	X	X	X
Facilitate and intensify inter- and intra-exchange learning visits	X	X	X
Support field days for vegetables and village chickens	X	X	X
Document impact stories	X	X	X
Conduct monthly Agriculture and Livelihoods technical review meetings	X	X	X
Nutrition & Health			
Increase convergence, reach, coverage, and linkages of eligible clients within H&N and across other thematic areas	X	X	X
Continue with the establishment of ECD corners at health facilities	X	X	X
Promote communication and play for sick and well children	X	X	X
Train women on toy making	X	X	X
Continue registration of pregnant women and mothers of children aged 0-24 months into SMSGs	X	X	X
Improve H&N data quality through continuous monitoring, mentoring, and coaching of CBVs (SMSGs, ECD, FP)	X	X	X

Planned Activities	2022		
	Jul	Aug	Sep
Orient CBVs in implementation of SMSGs and ECDs	X	X	X
Promote age-appropriate messages on feeding practices through SMSGs	X	X	X
Provide TA and support during Child Health Week, Breastfeeding weeks	X	X	X
Facilitate exchange visits and learning tours for CBVs and HF coordinators within and outside catchment areas, documenting successes and best practices	X	X	X
Conduct district technical field visits	X	X	X
Conduct nutrition triggering in villages/catchment areas	X	X	X
WASH			
Drill, test and construct new water points	X	X	X
Rehabilitate, test, and equip selected non-functional water points	X	X	X
Promote household water treatment and safe storage (HWTSS)	X	X	X
Conduct routine water quality monitoring and treatment for community and institutional water sources		X	X
Promote key hygiene messages through care groups / SMSGs /SAGs and advocate for changes in hygiene practices/behaviors	X	X	X
Train Community Champions and SAGs on CLTS approach and monitoring	X	X	X
Conduct ODF mass verification and certification processes to confirm ODF status		X	X
Carry out CLTS progress monitoring at sub-district and district levels	X	X	X
Cross-Cutting			
Continue SBC roll-out and capacity-building for SUN TA staff and GRZ staff	X	X	X
Engage NFNC for input into the Happy Home Campaign strategy through Communications and Advocacy Technical Working Group	X	X	
Orient CBVs on Happy Home Campaign, identification, and mentorship of Happy Homes in pilot districts as well as engagement of community leaders as advocates	X	X	X
Review, pre-test, and adapt targeted campaign resources	X	X	X
Document best practices and success stories	X	X	X
M&E			
Facilitate PNCC & DNCC MEL TWG meetings, program review meetings and joint monitoring activities	X	X	X
Data verification for Mumbwa, Chibombo, Kitwe, Nchelenge, Kaputa, and Mbala	X	X	X
Qualitative assessment of Project interventions including reach, quality of services/products, convergence, and potential for impact	X	X	X
Technical supportive supervision on the digital platform for data collection to government officers in project catchment areas	X	X	X
Hold research disseminations, data utilization, and learning sessions to feed into scale-up/Project recalibration plans	X	X	X
Conduct trend/time-series analysis on Project outcome and impact indicators at health facility level	X	X	X

ANNEX A: INDICATOR PERFORMANCE TRACKING TABLE

Indicator	2022 Target (Jan-Dec 2022)	Quarterly Achievement (Apr-Jun 2022)	Annual Cumulative (Jan-Jun 2022)	Life of Project Target (Feb 2019-Feb 2023)	Cumulative Achievement (Feb 2019-Mar 2022)
	Agriculture and Livelihoods				
EG.3.2-24: Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance [IM-level]	100,000	9,009	37,011	213,000	75,768
EG.3.2-27: Value of agriculture-related financing accessed as a result of USG assistance (\$)	[REDACTED]				
EG.3-10-11-12: Yield of targeted agricultural commodities among program participants with USG assistance [IM-level]					
1.1 Maize	2 MT	1.8	1.8	2	2.5
1.2 Mixed Beans	500 kg	570	570	500	600
1.3 Soya Beans	1 MT	1.12	1.12	1	1.4
EG.3.2-25: Number of hectares under improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance [IM-level]	10,000	3,328.26	7,931.78	21,300	14,710.78
EG, 3.2: Number of individuals participating in USG food security programs	1,100,000	400,857	783,659	2,200,000	2,376,841
EG.4.2-7: Number of individuals participating in USG-assisted group-based savings, micro-finance or lending programs [IM-level]	27,000	7,675	13,304	62,000	48,562
GNDP-2: Percentage of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources [IM-level] [%]	85%	83%	84%	85%	84%
Youth-3: Percentage of participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources who are youth (15-29) [IM-level] [%]	30%	24%	25%	30%	25%
Health and Nutrition					
HL.9-2: Number of children under two (0-23 months) reached with community-level nutrition interventions through USG-	130,000	44,615	46,787	290,000	166,013

Indicator	2022 Target (Jan-Dec 2022)	Quarterly Achievement (Apr-Jun 2022)	Annual Cumulative (Jan-Jun 2022)	Life of Project Target (Feb 2019-Feb 2023)	Cumulative Achievement (Feb 2019-Mar 2022)
supported programs [IM-Level]					
HL.9-3: Number of pregnant women reached with nutrition-specific interventions through USG-supported programs [IM-level]	15,000	9,103	10,232	25,640	53,019
HL 7-1-2: Percent of USG-assisted service delivery sites providing family planning counseling and/or services	75%	84%	93%	100%	91%
HL 7-2-2: Number of USG-assisted community health workers (CHWs) providing Family Planning (FP) information, referrals, and/or services during the year	2,537	1,816	1,916	2,537	1,916
HL 7.3-2: Number of individuals in the target population exposed to USG funded Family Planning (FP) messages through/on radio, television, electronic platforms, community group dialogue, interpersonal communication or in print (by channel/# of channels)	810,000	405,061	441,582	810,000	441,582
Water Sanitation and Hygiene					
HL. 8.1-1: Number of people gaining access to basic drinking water services as a result of USG assistance	163,500	19,741	86,994	250,000	199,994
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	83,750	15,985	55,599	175,000	144,849
HL. 8.1-4: Number of institutional settings gaining access to a basic drinking water services as a result of USG assistance	13	1	6	76	18
HL.8.2-2: Number of people gaining access to a basic sanitation service as a result of USG assistance [IM-level]	1,100,000	400,857	783,659	2,200,000	2,376,841
HL. 8.2-1: Number of communities verified as open defecation free (ODF) as a result of USG assistance	1,500	113	120	2,400	871

ANNEX B: SUCCESS STORIES

TRAINED VOLUNTEERS DELIVER FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES TO RURAL COMMUNITIES

Family planning services are an integral part of any health system. To contribute to the delivery of family planning, the USAID-funded Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance (SUN TA) Project is supporting the Ministry of Health by bringing the services closer to household doorsteps, especially in rural areas.

In Ndola District, SUN TA has supported the government to train 180 community-based distributors (CBDs) to reach communities with family planning commodities, counselling, and referrals. The CBDs collect the commodities from nearby health facilities for onward distribution to rural communities, and regularly restock when clients run out.

Through established SUN Mother Support Groups—small groups led by trained community-based volunteers—mothers received a learning series of improved maternal and childcare practices. Among the lessons taught is the importance of family planning to the mother’s health and the general well-being of the household.

During these regular support groups, CBD’s join mothers to offer family planning services, cutting out travel to and from the nearest health facility.



██████████ at Nkwazi Clinic during one of the visits to the facility to collect family planning commodities.



██████████ with the (left) with the CBV at Nkwazi Health Facility.

██████████ is one of 180 SUN TA-trained CBDs who can provide community level family planning services. Based out of the Nkwazi Health Centre, she has reached 684 clients through the two SUN Mother Support Groups she oversees.

“During our meetings, we share information on the importance of family planning services and the role family planning plays on reducing stunting among children below two years,” says Marjorie. “Mothers are appreciating the knowledge on spacing their children as it gives them time to recover after delivery and have more time to look after their children.”

One of the beneficiaries of Marjorie’s family planning services is 33-year-old [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

“We thank the project and the health centre for training our community volunteer in family planning because we are now able to access family planning services within our SUN Mother Support Group,” says [REDACTED]. “Previously, we used to walk to the clinic for family planning services where we would spend much time to access the services.”

FROM GREEN BEANS TO SOYBEANS TO CHICKENS, ROBERT BANDA DOES IT ALL

When the USAID-funded Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance (SUN TA) project and Zambia’s Ministry of Livestock were looking for model farmers to expand the village chicken value chain in rural communities, they sought farmers who could inspire others with both knowledge and practice.

In Kabwe District, the team identified and selected 52-year-old [REDACTED]. He is an active and productive farmer that stands out as an inspiration to his community. He grows a variety of crops such as cabbage, tomatoes, carrots, green peppers, green beans, soybeans, maize, eggplants, garden eggs, onions, lettuce, squash, and iron rich (Mbereshi) beans, as well as raises chickens.

Banda left formal employment in 1995 and has since built his livelihood as a farmer. His involvement with the SUN TA project started in 2021 and brought a new dimension to his farming, increasing his knowledge, and in turn, income. [REDACTED] received training in improved agronomical practices that helped improve his vegetable, legume, and grain production. He also learned about the nutritional value of different crops and has used that information to intentionally grow crops that help prevent malnutrition in children.

The project also trained [REDACTED] on village chicken management. As a demonstration farmer, he has mentored ten other follower farmers on how to grow and sell village chickens, passing on valuable knowledge.

“I was motivated to start rearing village chickens because of the nutritional benefits and the good market price,” said [REDACTED]. Because of the knowledge he gained on growing village chickens, he reported his production capacity has increased from 60 to 300 chickens. Local restaurants drive the high demand for village chickens because of their tasty meat and sell for as high as [REDACTED] per bird.



Farmer [REDACTED] of Kabwe seen here feeding his chickens. SUN TA is supporting the Ministry of Livestock to increase the production of village chickens for both income and as a source of animal protein for households.

“I AM PROVIDING FOR MY FAMILY AND CAN HOLD MY HEAD UP HIGH”

Increasing access to finance has progressively improved the lives of many people living in USAID’s Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance (SUN TA) Project’s targeted 13 districts. People who previously had no viable livelihood are now accessing loans to start small businesses, drastically improving their incomes.

In Ndola District, SUN TA has worked with the Ministry of Community Development to roll-out community savings and loan groups (CSLG), resulting in 2,509 participating members supported by 66 trained Community Facilitators.

Among the beneficiaries is 47-year-old ██████████ a husband and father of five, who joined in February 2021.

“In July 2021, I borrowed ██████████ to start a grocery shop, money which I could not borrow anywhere else in our community. The idea came after seeing that there were no shops nearby. I thought of the money I spent travelling to town just to buy small things like soap and salt. Starting a grocery shop was the only way to help myself and my community,” says ██████████



“I sell about ██████████ per week from my small grocery. I have plans of adding more items which are on demand such as ladies’ shoes, ladies’ wrappers and kitchen ware.”

In the last farming season, ██████████ says he was able to use some of the proceeds from his shop and loans to buy 12x50 kgs of the government-subsidized fertilizer to boost his maize farm. The harvest contributed to an increased availability of food for his family.



██████████ displaying his cash after sharing out.



██████████ showcasing his maize field after re-energizing the soil with organic fertilizer.

██████ says as a result of his improved income, family relations have equally improved. “My wife and I used to quarrel a lot because of failing to provide for the family. But after joining the savings group, I can walk with my head high because we are now a happy family.”

Initially, ██████ thought the savings groups were not open to men as most of the savers/participants appeared to be women. After joining the group, he was elected Recordkeeper and says he has enjoyed working with his female-dominated group. ██████ story is testimony to how a small but powerful intervention can help change the lives of individuals to look after themselves and their families.

KITWE'S MUKUKA COMMUNITY GAINS ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND NUTRITIOUS VEGETABLES

Located 31 km southwest of the Kitwe central business district, the Mukuka community has a population of over 7,400 people. Until recently, this community relied on shallow wells as their only source of water.

Aligned with its mandate of increasing access to clean and safe water and ultimate reduction of stunting among children under two, the USAID-funded Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance (SUN TA) Project undertook a water needs assessment in partnership the District Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education (D-WASHE) Committee. Together, they identified boreholes requiring rehabilitation and communities in need of new boreholes across Kitwe District. Through this assessment, the joint team identified Mukuka village as a community that could benefit from a new borehole.

Now the only source of clean and safe water for the community, the village started using the new borehole in May 2022, bringing much joy to the people.

“Women and children spent a lot of time fetching water from shallow wells. We appreciate this support from SUN TA and the government,” said [REDACTED] [REDACTED] chairperson of the Village Water Sanitation and Health Education (V-WASHE) committee that oversees the waterpoint.

“With this borehole, we are now growing vegetables. The money raised from the sale of vegetables will go toward any needed borehole repairs and maintenance.”

With support from a lead farmer trained by SUN TA, the V-WASHE committee plans to use the garden as a model site to share knowledge with the community on the importance of growing vegetables as a source of nutrients and income.



The vegetable garden the community has established after a new borehole (in the background) was constructed.