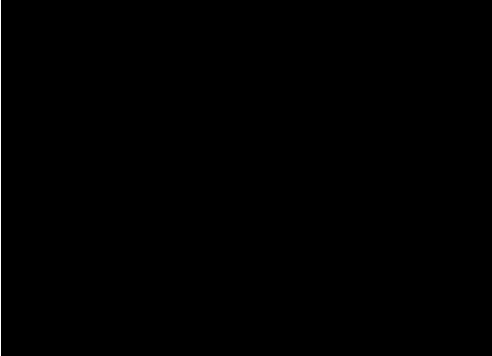
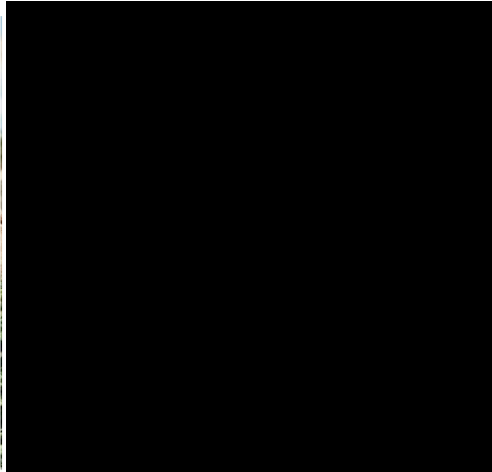
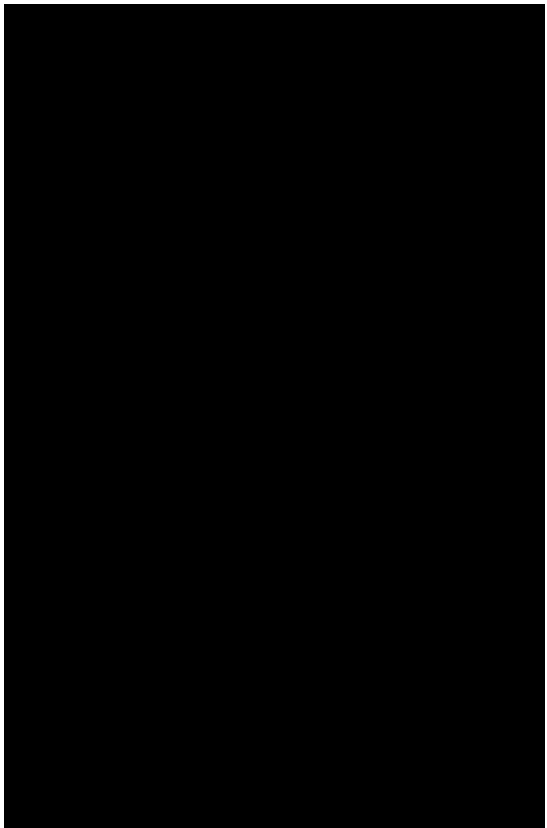




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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Annual Report

January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

Submission Date: January 31, 2023

Contract Number: 72061119C000002

Contract Period: February 18, 2019 – August 18, 2024



Submitted:



USAID SUN TA



This document was produced for review and approval by the United States Agency for International Development Zambia Mission (USAID/Zambia)

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

APM	Area Pump Mender
BHR	Rehabilitated Borehole
CANCC	Catchment Area Coordinating Committee
CBD	Community-based Distributor
CBV	Community-based Volunteer
CC	Community Champions
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CEO	Camp Extension Officer
CHW	Community Health Worker
CLTN	Community-led Total Nutrition
CLTS	Community-led Total Sanitation
CSLG	Community Savings and Loan Group
DACO	District Agriculture Coordinator
DHIS2	District Health Information Software
DNCC	District Nutrition Coordination Committee
D-WASHE	District Water Sanitation and Health Education
EBF	Exclusive Breastfeeding
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EHT	Environmental Health Technician
EMMP	Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
FP	Family Planning
GNA	Good Nature Agro
GRZ	Government of the Republic of Zambia
HMIS	Health Management Information System
HoD	Head of Department
IAPRI	Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute
IECD	Integrated Early Childhood Development
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
MCDP II	First 1,000 Most Critical Days Program II
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

MIS	Management Information System
MLGRD	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
MSME	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
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
PRM	Program Review Meetings
PVI	Peripheral Vision International
SAG	Sanitation Action Group
SBC	Social and Behavior Change
SMAG	Safe Motherhood Action Group
SMSG	SUN Mothers Support Groups
SUN LE	USAID Scaling Up Nutrition Learning and Evaluation Project
SUN TA	Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance
TOT	Training of Trainers
TCA	Theatre for Community Action
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
WNCC	Ward Nutrition Coordinating Committee
WRS	Water Reticulation System
WQAP	Water Quality Assurance Plan
ZMW	Zambia Kwacha

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the fourth annual report for the USAID Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance (SUN TA) Project covering activities implemented from January 1 to December 31, 2022. The USAID SUN TA is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to reduce stunting among children under two years of age in Zambia through implementation of the Government of the Republic of Zambia's (GRZ) 1,000 Most Critical Days Program (MCDP II).

The USAID SUN TA Project is a four-year (February 18, 2019 - February 17, 2023) contract (72061119C00002) with three additional option years for a total of seven years between DAI and USAID. In August 2022, USAID exercised Option Period I by extending the SUN TA project for eighteen months from February 17, 2023 to August 18, 2024.

SUN TA is part of the cross-ministry and multi-donor Scaling Up Nutrition program. SUN TA is implementing this program in 13 districts:

[REDACTED]

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 mid-upper arm circumference (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 goal of this project, 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

During the implementation period of 2022, SUN TA continued its focus on the convergence of activities particularly among Lead and Follower Farmers, SUN Mother Support Groups (MSG), and Community Savings and Loan Groups (CSLG). This integrated approach was rolled out using the four project pillars along with social and behavior change principles. Lead and Follower Farmers received support in growing diverse, nutrient-dense vegetables, legumes, and livestock, and retaining enough at the household level for consumption. MSG members received training in food preparation and processing (recipes based on the crops they are growing) and agriculture training for backyard gardens to supplement household consumption and sales. CSLG members were trained on how to create income generation activities and market linkages while strengthening group cohesion, promoting financial inclusion, and empowering women. Further, all targeted groups were exposed to improved hygiene and sanitation practices as part of enhanced and sustainable new household behaviors.

Despite the disruptive effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and other operational challenges, the SUN TA Project achieved significant results across thematic areas in 2022. The project handed over the rehabilitated old boreholes and construction of new ones to ensure clean and safe water to hundreds of communities across the 13 focus districts and served to prevent diarrheal diseases, especially those affecting young children. The open defecation-free campaign

contributed substantially to improved sanitation and hygiene through the upgrading and construction of household toilets, thereby improving human dignity and preventing diseases.

Access to finance also increased significantly and proved an important source of income and livelihood for thousands of women who previously had no access to capital or any sustainable source of income/livelihood. On the agricultural front, SUN TA worked with Lead and Follower Farmers to establish more community gardens, which inspired more women to adopt the concept of household gardens. This, in turn, has encouraged them to grow and consume more diverse, nutritious vegetables, thus increasing nutrient intake, crucial to preventing stunting. Lastly, mothers and children under two benefited from improved childcare practices through the last mile work of trained and dedicated community-based volunteers (CBVs) who oversaw an increased number of SMSGs, an important platform for engaging and teaching mothers.

Evidence and Impact

Beneficiary Quotes

“Mulching is a good method...especially since our area is very hot almost the whole year. When we put mulch on our vegetable beds, it helps to keep our soils moist until the following day. I like it as it makes me not spend much time watering cause the soils are never completely dry. SUN TA is doing a recommendable job to our community.”

“As partners, we have worked well with the SUN TA Project, especially after having learned SUN TA systems. The staff are supportive and communication lines are open. With the beneficiaries, we have seen great improvement in the livelihoods of the pregnant mothers and those with children under two years. Pregnant women and children under two can get high protein from the eggs and chickens. In addition, our mothers are able to have extra cash from the sale of the eggs on a weekly basis and from the chickens, which enables them to buy soap and maintain good hygiene practices like washing their hands after using toilets and keeping clothes which was not the case before. All this can be attested to the fact that we have a 100 percent membership of beneficiaries to the SMSGs which is a plus for both parties” J
Livestock officer.

Thirty-year-old whose youngest child is seven months had this to say “Am a beneficiary of SUN TA in all aspects. I am a member of the SMSG, a Follower Farmer, and a beneficiary of the village chickens and am also a member of the savings group. My life has changed completely. I have full knowledge acquired from all the trainings and orientations. My friends even envy me now as can save up a lot of money at the savings group from the income gained from the sale of eggs. When it comes to feeding *tuleya bwino nomwana alina*. The manure I collect from the chicken dropping are also used as manure for my vegetable garden which always gives me fresh vegetables. The great knowledge I have on child spacing has helped me have healthy babies now—they each receive my full attention. There is also food diversity now as I know the value of fruits, vegetables, and different legumes and carbohydrates. Am so grateful to SUN TA and their good works to helping improve our lives”

is 41 years old and has a two-year-old child. She is an SMSG member, Follower Farmer, village chicken Follower Farmer, and participates in a saving and loan group. She shares “I am very grateful to SUN TA for having

invested in me. From the sales of the village chickens, I was able to buy fertilizer for my maize field. My gardening skills have improved to include crop rotation with certified seed and use the manure from the chickens. As a member of the SUN Mother Support Group, I can cook a variety of food for my children and the baby is growing very healthy. From the money I have saved, I plan on reinvesting in the village chickens as they are on high demand.”

██████████ a Lead Farmer in ██████████ said “SUN-TA encouraged me to have a backyard garden where I have planted local vegetables like chibwabwa, kalembula, and kachesha and this helped me to have access to vegetables every day. Even if I have no money to buy vegetables I still get from my garden.”

A Lead Farmer ██████████, has witnessed a drop in malnutrition levels in his area and said “The malnutrition levels have reduced in the area because households now afford and appreciate eating a variety of dark leafy vegetables and biofortified foods. The households are feeding on orange maize, orange fleshed sweet potato vine, and Mbereshi beans which are very nutritious. Thanks to SUN TA who provided the knowledge on these food stuffs.”

██████████ a community leader states, “We are grateful to SUN TA and the government for bringing this beautiful borehole to us. We shall start buying white clothing now that we have clean and safe water. We will reduce going to the clinic as our children will stop suffering from diarrhea...we have stopped getting water from shallow wells.”

Community-led Total Nutrition Triggering

To increase demand and awareness of nutrition services and activities at the community level, SUN TA introduced a new community action approach called Community-led Total Nutrition (CLTN), modelled along the lines of the Community-led Total Sanitation (CLTS) in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). CLTN is a strategy to trigger awareness and thus increase coverage and reach of nutrition services. It focuses on igniting behavior change by triggering community members to identify and acknowledge nutrition-related problems in their community and develop actions with facilitation and guidance from external support, such as SUN TA.

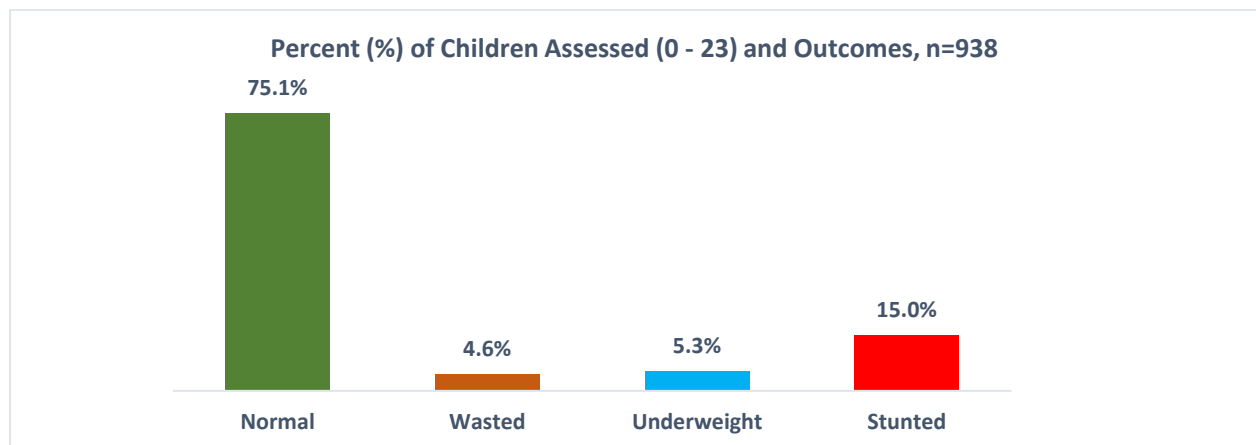
As an example of the CLTN, before the triggering session in ██████████ ██████████ about 15 kms from ██████████ the village had only 30 out of 138 households with improved latrines that met open defecation-free (ODF) standards; only 23 households had backyard gardens; and there was no savings and loan or SMSGs existing in the village. The village also had no CBVs providing support in the four project pillars. From the 26 assessed children aged 0 – 23 months during the triggering meeting, four were stunted (15 percent), two were underweight (8 percent), and two were wasted (8 percent). Caregivers relayed poor feeding practices, only feeding children once or twice a day on blunt diets (plain porridge in the morning and nshima with ‘soup’ made of salty water with tomatoes and indigenous okra) morning and afternoon.

After the triggering meeting, the community developed an action plan and listed activities they would implement to demonstrate their desire to change. The post triggering review meeting was set for a month after the triggering meeting. The community identified four community leaders as part of the process – a health promoter from an existing national health clinic, Lead

Farmer, Sanitation Action Group (SAG) Champion, and a village savings loan groups facilitator.

During the post triggering review session, SUN TA staff observed a marked improvement in the village. The number of households with improved latrines that meet ODF standards increased from 30 to 65, improving sanitation by 47 percent. Households with backyard gardens increased to 78, representing a 23 percent increase. Four SMSGs had been formed, each with an average membership of 13 caregivers and pregnant women, in addition to forming savings and loan groups. The village team who met during the post triggering review meeting confirmed they had implemented at least 50 percent of the activities outlined in their action plan (gardening, building improved latrines, establishing SMSGs, forming savings groups, improving childcare practices, attending antenatal clinics, and growth monitoring and promotion).

As part of the CLTN approach, data on children from 0 – 23 months is collected and analyzed during the triggering sessions. Out of 938 children in [REDACTED] from 29 villages in 13 catchment areas/nine wards, SUN TA found that 15 percent are stunted, 4.6 percent are wasted, and 5.3 percent are underweight as illustrated in the table below. This reflects a different finding in [REDACTED] from the midline survey which reported 35 percent are stunted, 1.2 percent are wasted and 12.9 percent underweight. The midline sample size was around 250 households for each district.



Annual indicator survey

SUN TA engaged an independent consulting firm to conduct a quantitative mini survey on selected and standard outcome indicators. The study was fielded with project direct beneficiaries including SMSG and CSLG members and covered all 13 project districts. Due to COVID-related restrictions, data collection was remotely conducted via phone interviews and a total of 1,200 randomly selected beneficiaries were interviewed through a mobile phone platform. Result highlights are presented in the table below and study findings were disseminated to project staff through facilitated discussions. Contextualized district-level findings allowed for the identification of factors facilitating/inhibiting performance. Gaps in programming to address these include low district coverage and participation, low demonstration of convergence at the household level, a need to utilize existing platforms to improve programming, and identification of additional platforms to facilitate expansion of project supported interventions.

Indicators	2021 Survey	Baseline	Year 4 Target
Percent of female participants of USG nutrition-sensitive agriculture activities consuming a diet of minimum diversity	69.7%	19.4%	75%
Percent of smallholder producers in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance	69.5%	No data	No data
Prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding of children under six months of age	84.8%	68%	72%
Percentage of children under 2 meeting minimal standards for infant and young child feeding (IYCF)	56.6%	28.5%	48.5%
Percent of the audience who recall hearing or seeing a specific USG-supported Family Planning/Reproductive Health	57.2%	54%	60%
Percentage of children under age 2 who had diarrhea in the preceding two weeks	30.4%	34.5%	45.4%
Percentage of women participating in household decisions regarding the production and sale of crops and livestock	80.1%	57%	80%

SUN LE Midline Survey

In 2022, SUN TA received preliminary results from the midline survey conducted by the Scaling Up Nutrition Learning and Evaluation Project (SUN LE). The SUN LE midline survey noted that stunting is still a major problem among children less than 24 months in the 30 SUN target districts. The midline survey observed a significant increase in stunting from 30.2 percent at baseline to 34.0 percent at midline, and this pattern was observed across sex, age, and location subsets. However, geographical variations in stunting were observed in the districts (i.e., in the SUN TA districts) there was reduction in severely stunted children at baseline compared to midline in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Further, a significant increase in stunting was seen among children under two years old at baseline and midline in [REDACTED] (15.8 percent vs. 31.0 percent) in Copperbelt Province. SUN TA is covering 12 wards in [REDACTED] out of 28 wards with some of the midline enumeration areas covering non-SUN TA wards.

Other results from the midline survey on breastfeeding, access to sanitation, access to basic drinking water, and the incidence of diarrhea disease indicate an improvement, thus providing a window of opportunity to build on the gains and turn the tide for better nutrition outcomes. For example, the midline saw some decline in the incidence of diarrhea, ranging from 1.1 percent in [REDACTED] to 29 percent in [REDACTED] (an ODF certified district).

The preliminary results from the SUN LE midline received serious questions that needed to be addressed before final publication across all the SUN implementing and cooperating partners. SUN TA made some initial reviews and observations as follows:

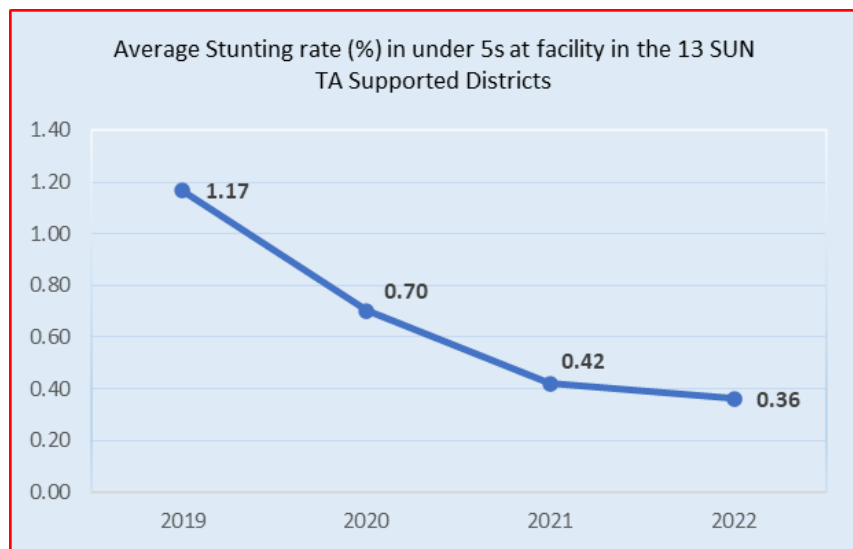
- The questionnaire was too long to administer (taking about 3-4 hours) which may have resulted in respondents being fatigued and unable to provide thoughtful responses;
- Some findings did not match with research studies (e.g., wasting, and underweight decreased, but stunting increased); and
- Due diligence was not applied in the analysis of data for some indicators (meeting Minimum Acceptable Dietary Diversity at household level, SUN LE reported 9 percent, while check-in data shows 52.4 percent).

SUN TA will continue to use approaches that yield results such as nutrition triggering and convergence to respond to the gaps that could have contributed to some of the negative survey findings.

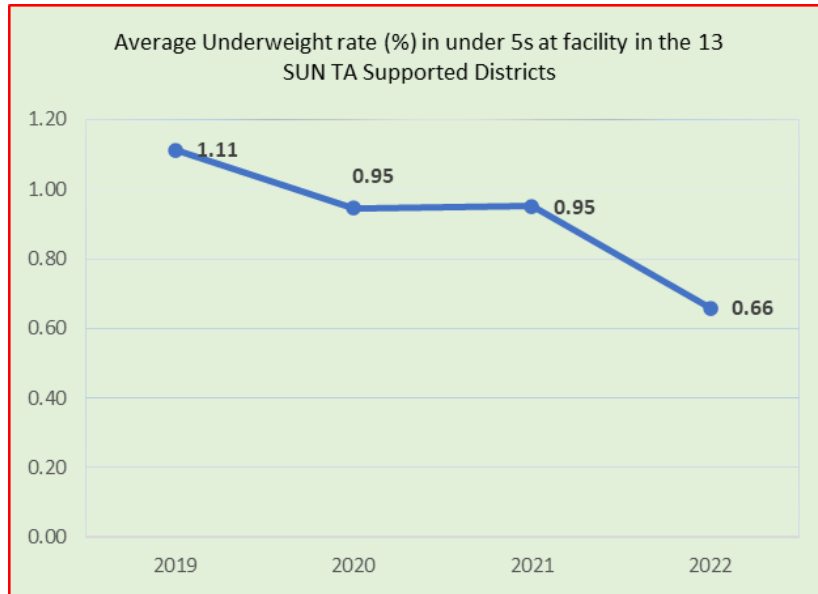
Health Management Information System Data

The project conducted an analysis of Ministry of Health data on stunting, underweight and vitamin A supplementation, sourced from the Health Management Information System (HMIS). Data on stunting relates to children under five as opposed to the project target of children under two, and therefore serves as a proxy. The results on stunting, underweight, and vitamin A supplementation indicators from the 13 SUN TA supported districts are summarized below:

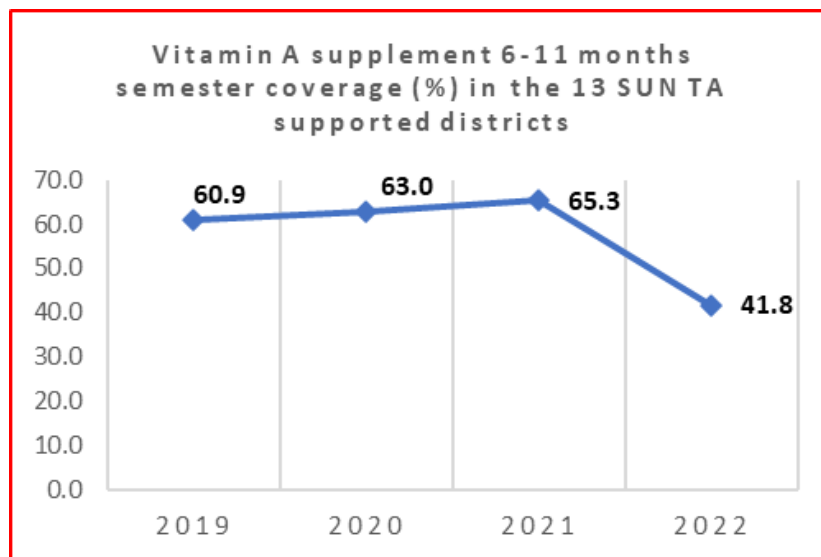
Stunting: Further to the HMIS data which was presented in the Annual Report for 2021 which showed that stunting had reduced by 1 percent between 2018 and 2021, the analysis of the stunting trends extending into 2022 shows a reduction of 0.06 percent. Six of the 13 supported districts, which include [REDACTED] reported reduction in stunting between 2021 and 2022. At the time data analysis for the 2021 Annual Report, [REDACTED] had not recorded reduction in stunting, however, the district has reported a 0.34 percent reduction between 2021 and 2022.



Underweight: Underweight rates reduced by 0.29 percent between 2021 and 2022 based on the HMIS data. Nine of the 13 supported districts reported a reduction in the rates of underweight children with [REDACTED] posting a 0.66 percent reduction, which was the highest among the 13 supported districts. There was no change in the rate of underweight children in [REDACTED] between 2021 and 2022 which remained at 1.2 percent while [REDACTED] rates increased by 0.3 and 0.08 respectively.



Vitamin A Supplementation: According to the HMIS data, 12 of the 13 supported districts reported a reduction in the coverage of Vitamin A Supplementation between 2021 and 2022, resulting in the overall reduction of 23.5%. [REDACTED] is the only district which recorded a 4.5 percent increment for this indicator between 2021 and 2022.



Key Highlights by Technical Area

In 2022, SUN TA provided technical assistance to the key implementing government line ministries and the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC) to deliver a range of activities across the project's four pillars. Below is a summary of results:

Agriculture & Livelihoods

- Expanding access to finance through CSLGs grew remarkably in 2022 with cumulative savings of over [REDACTED] compared to [REDACTED] at the end of 2021. These savings drive new micro, small, and medium enterprises that are further contributing to improved livelihoods and resilience for 60,028 households reaching well over 300,140 people (average of five people per household).
- Small businesses established through CSLGs leaped from 11,494 at the end of 2021 to 21,236 in 2022. This has increased the livelihood options for households, especially the purchase of diverse foods that increase nutrient intake for both mothers and children, in turn preventing stunting. Some of the proceeds are being invested in capital projects such as housing.
- A total of 14,083 (135.4 percent) hectares (an average of 0.17 hectares per farmer) of land was under improved management practices (use of certified seed, inoculant, minimum tillage, integrated pest management, mulching, crop rotation, intercropping, etc.), far surpassing the annual target of 10,400 hectares.
- From 14,083 hectares, farmers recorded sales from various crops totaling [REDACTED] in 2022 compared to [REDACTED] in 2021. These incomes are critical to increasing household consumption of various goods and services, as well as investment.
- Through private sector engagement, 12,494 soybean farmers participated in the 2021/2022 farming season with Good Nature Agro (GNA). Loan recoveries [REDACTED], a positive sign of a good credit culture and sustainability despite erratic rainfall and crop yields.

Nutrition & Health

- In 2022, CBVs recruited 79,502 pregnant and lactating women into SMSGs, all of whom benefitted from health and nutrition talks, cooking demonstrations, and were exposed to various social and behavior change messages related to improved childcare practices such as: essential hygiene behaviors; importance of exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months, then complementary feeding thereafter; benefits of joining Follower Farmer groups; and participation in savings groups.
- At the end of 2022, 1,962 community-based distributors (CBDs) were actively delivering family planning services, reaching 188,124 clients with various family planning methods. This outreach helped women rebuild adequate nutrient stores and achieve safer pregnancies, ultimately leading better outcomes including reduced rates of stunting, wasting, and child, infant, and maternal mortality.
- SUN TA decentralized, integrated, and popularized Early Childhood and Development (ECD) activities into SMSGs at the community level, creating opportunities for children to play with toys made of locally available materials as well as assess and observe their development milestones (*see Annex B*). At the end of 2022, the project established 146 ECD health facility corners, up from 29 in 2021.

- SUN TA introduced the concept of CLTN to stimulate demand for nutrition services and empower households and communities to take collective action on improving their nutrition situation. Post-activity monitoring showed a positive response from communities who were adopting recommended behaviors such as establishing backyard gardens to improve nutrient intake, joining SMSGs, and constructing toilets for improved sanitation and hygiene at the household level. This will consequently help the project increase its coverage, reach, convergence of activities, and track and routinely measure progress based on the collected data on children and pregnant women.

WASH

- The project handed over 130 rehabilitated boreholes and 109 new boreholes to communities, providing clean and safe water to 118,736 people across the 13 districts. In addition, SUN TA continued to support District Water Sanitation and Health Education (D-WASHE) committees to conduct routine water quality monitoring to ensure water safety, and collected 985 water samples from 397 water sources, all of which were found to be within acceptable limits.
- SUN TA staff oriented 1,762 SAGs and, in turn, facilitated 322,015 households with a total population of 921,191 people, to build new or upgrade existing latrines to ODF standards (smooth and cleanable floor, a lid to cover the drop hole, a super structure to provide privacy, and a handwashing facility with soap and water).
- Government officials certified 817 communities as ODF including Shimumbi Chiefdom in Luwingu, in an effort to eliminate diarrheal diseases and improve sanitation and hygiene in communities. There are now three chiefdoms certified as ODF: [REDACTED]
- To improve hygiene and sanitation, 1,488,124 people gained access to basic hygiene (handwashing facility on premises with soap and water), helping to prevent diarrheal diseases, which are a leading cause of stunting in Zambia.

Cross-Cutting

- SUN TA hosted senior U.S. government officials, namely the USAID Administrator and USAID Zambia Mission Director, on several site visits. They interacted with individuals and communities benefitting from U.S. government support. Also, the project played host to a donor delegation from the Nutrition Cooperation Partners Group in M [REDACTED] and visited other SUN districts in the same province for cross learning purposes.
- SUN TA was active in WASH stakeholder platforms throughout the year. The project financially contributed to and participated in WASH-related events including World Water Day and World Toilet Day. The project also participated in Zambia's Second National Sanitation Summit held in [REDACTED] in November 2022.
- SUN TA participated in various national events, commemorations, and key SUN meetings including the High-Level Nutrition Event on November 30, 2022 that brought together government, donors, civil society, private sector, research/academia, and media to reflect on Zambia's nutrition status and recommit to fighting stunting.

SUN TA PROJECT RESULTS

Agriculture & Livelihoods

The Agriculture and Livelihoods 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 (village chickens) at community and household levels using climate smart agriculture practices to sustainably address household food, income, and nutrition security. Financial inclusion is being achieved through CSLGs owned by members and operated with the assistance of trained Community Facilitators. SUN TA works with the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Ministry of Community Development, and the Ministry of Green Economy to implement project activities.

- **Access to Diverse Nutritious Foods:** The production and consumption of diverse vegetables is key to increasing nutrient intake and preventing stunting among children below two years. In 2022, SUN TA worked with the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health to distribute various agriculture inputs donated by Harvest Plus to encourage households to scale up production and consumption of diverse, nutritious food, and well as sale of surpluses for income. These inputs included vitamin A, orange maize seed (32,160 by 500 grams), iron fortified beans (901 by 5 kgs), and 20,009 bundles of orange fleshed sweet potato vines to 53,070 SUN households. For instance, in [REDACTED], farmers sold fresh 'winter maize' (off the traditional rain season) realizing [REDACTED] from orange sweet potatoes, demonstrating innovation among farmers motivated by the financial incentive as the project keeps emphasizing that farming is a business, not a social undertaking. Furthermore, the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment in Ndola through its Forestry Department supported 1,000 beneficiaries i.e., SUN households, CBVs, and 13 health facilities with 2,000 potted guava seedlings. Each household was given two seedlings to be planted in their backyards while health facilities were given ten seedlings to be planted within the facility yard.
- **Lead Farmer Community Extension Services:** Through extension services provided by 1,239 (F: 375; M: 864) Lead Farmers, 7,008 SMSG members established their own backyard gardens to enhance consumption of nutritious food as promoted by the project through its various SBC activities. Further, the project helped establish 1,173 community gardens and 90 active health facility gardens, with beneficiaries practicing at least one of the improved management practices or technologies such as use of certified seed, integrated pest management (IPM), nursery establishment, use of organic manure, crop rotation, mulching, intercropping, and weed management.
- **Capacity Building in Integrated Pest Management:** To build on the growing adoption of IPM practices, the project trained 80 people who included 58 Lead Farmers (F: 20, M: 38) and 22 District Staff/Block/Camp extension officers (F: 11; M: 11). IPM significantly reduces environmental risks associated with pest management by encouraging the adoption of more ecologically friendly pest control practices. The training focused on pest and disease management to minimize economic, health, and environmental risks related to use of biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools. The training was cascaded to Follower Farmers supervised by camp extension staff who participated in the trainings.

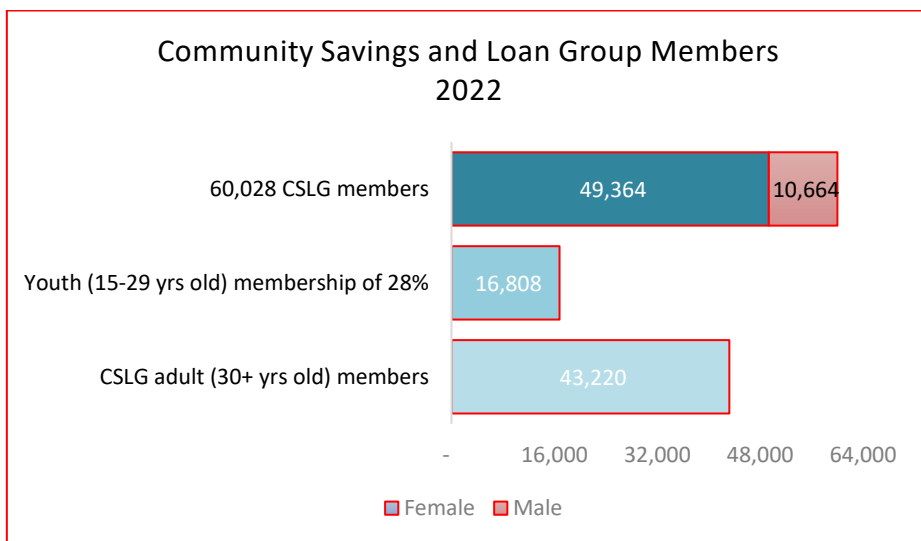


“I want to appreciate the SUN TA project for the knowledge I have gained in the use of different natural plants such as pawpaw and moringa to control pests and diseases in my garden. As farmers, we are unable to afford expensive chemicals. But with the knowledge I gained from the trainings we had, I will be able to control a lot of these common pests and diseases at a very minimal cost.” – [REDACTED]

- Application of Improved Agronomical and Climate Smart Practices:** As an outcome of extension services conducted by 1,239 Lead Farmers (F: 375; M: 864), 56,024 farmers (F: 38,462; M: 17,562) practiced improved farming technologies and accessed learning through established community gardens and health facility gardens. This resulted in 14,083 hectares of land utilized, well beyond SUN TA’s target of 10,400. This growth in land use shows active participation of the project’s target beneficiaries who are engaged in food production through farming and gardening which is important in promoting household food security. However, despite the high land utilization, the targeted number of individuals practicing and adopting improved farming technologies attained settled at 56 percent. The lower-than-expected adoption was on account of various factors such as poor documentation of farmers, and lack of interest by some camp extension officers to reinforce good agricultural practices, monitor, and document good practices.
- Increasing Access to Finance and Entrepreneurship:** Demand for financial services (savings and loans groups) in SUN TA districts has continued to grow because of the visible benefits individuals are seeing from within their communities. Personal testimonies of small businesses are attracting more members to join the CSLGs. The trained Community Facilitators continued forming more groups in response to the growing demand. In the year under review, 1,456 new CSLGs were formed with a membership of 24,785 who saved [REDACTED] in 2021, a 50 percent year-on-year increase. As a result of increased access to finance, Zambians established 21,236 new enterprises with 9,331 in agriculture related businesses, 9,584 in retail business, and 2,321 participating in grocery businesses, creating a sustainable source of income.



- Share-out from Savings and Loan Groups:** The benefits of CSLGs continued to flow to members over the last year. In 2022, 192 CSLGs with a membership of 4,734 (F: 3,987; M: 747) shared out [REDACTED]. The share-outs are usually timed around the rainy season to enable members to purchase farming inputs such as certified seed and fertilizer and pay for farming labor. The money is also used for food purchases as well as reinvestment into their businesses.



“In the first cycle, we were only 15 in our group but after sharing out we have increased to 29 because many people in the area have seen the benefits of saving groups. In our second cycle, we shared out [REDACTED] and we have now gone into a third cycle.” - [REDACTED]

- Financial Literacy Training:** SUN TA supported training in financial literacy targeting the CSLG savers, Lead Farmers, Follower Farmers and Demonstration Farmers to enhance sound financial decision-making at household level, a steppingstone to viable and sustainable entrepreneurship. In the year, 109 (F: 53; M: 56) staff from Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of

Livestock and Fisheries were trained to deliver the concept at community level. This resulted in the training of 686 CBVs to take the idea to households as an ongoing activity.

- **Private Sector Engagement:** SUN TA continued facilitating linkages between the private sector and farmers to strengthen the direct contact for the two entities to interact in the long-term without SUN TA's involvement. This was noted from the 12 field days held across the 13 districts which provided a platform for [REDACTED], a supplier of day-old chicks, to pitch to the 2,223 crop and chicken farmers in attendance. During the field days, a mini survey was administered and a record of 2,223 farmers attended out of which 2,078 used certified seed, 1,665 crop rotation, and 1,223 crop diversifications. 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 on isolation sick bay. These field days created opportunities for farmers to interact with each other as well with seed companies. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. As a result, farmers were exposed to different technologies that could foster high production of soybeans and other crops. In [REDACTED] the project linked 20 groups to the cash box suppliers who made 20 cashboxes for them at a cost of [REDACTED]. Further, 300 passbooks were made at a cost of [REDACTED].

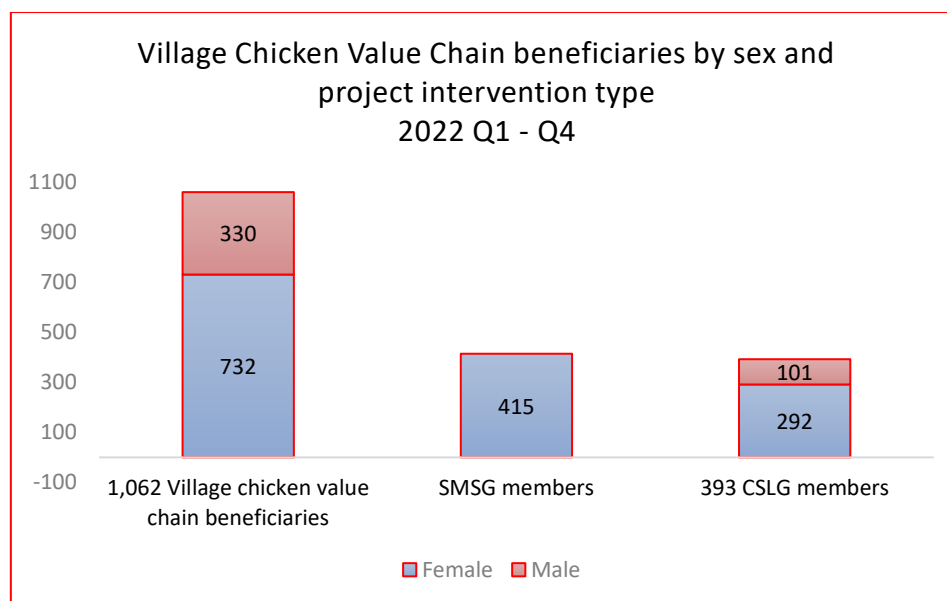
- **Soybean Value Chain:** Out of the targeted 6,500 farmers for the 2021/2022 farming season, 12,494 (F: 3,746; M: 8,746) were recruited largely from Chibombo and Kapiri Mposhi districts. The beneficiaries received inputs worth [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The expected repayment in-kind repayment was ZMW 1,077,606 broken down as 992,592 kgs for soybeans, 49,850 kgs for beans and 35,160 kgs for groundnuts. Loan recoveries were done in the second and third quarter. In-kind payment was at 75 percent for soybeans, 62 percent for beans, and 57.8 percent for groundnuts. The beneficiary farmers were mostly drawn from the willing and able households, not the 'vulnerable' who could not afford the cost of cultivating a [REDACTED]. To address this gap, the MoU with GNA was revised to ensure members of SMSGs and CSLGs benefitted. Efforts were then made to include SMSGs and CSLG members participation in the soybean value chain. A total of 1,614 (F: 484; M: 1,130) were recruited farmers for the 2022/2023 season and all purchased the soybeans of worth ZMW 758,790. Of the 1,614 farmers recruited for the 2022/2023 season, 59 were SMSG members and 166 women from CSLGs.

- **Village Chicken Value Chain:** The village chicken value chain continued to show impressive results, with 1,062 follower farmers (F: 732; M: 330) selling 8,669 chickens worth [REDACTED]. Following a strategic decision midyear to realign the targeting of the value chain to benefit women from SMSGs, more women from the target group were recruited as follower farmers. Of the 1,156 Follower Farmers, 415 or 36 percent were from SMSGs and received 15,418 chickens. The realignment of the targeting was done to influence consumption of animal protein (meat and eggs) in target households and get more women to participate in what has increasingly become a viable enterprise. At the end of 2022, the value



chain had 115 trained Demonstration Farmers who were supporting the 1,156 Follower Farmers with technical knowledge on how to raise, manage and sell the chickens.



“I am encouraging other community members to join in keeping improved village chickens because there are a lot of benefits such as increased income.” - [REDACTED]

- Technical review of Agric and Livelihoods:** In 2022, SUN TA undertook a technical review of the operations of the village chicken value chain and based on the findings decided to streamline the targeting to include more beneficiaries from SUN TA existing target groups, especially SMSG members (pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and women with children under two years). A similar review was done for savings groups with a view to include more beneficiaries from SUN households. This will be monitored in 2023 to ensure each of the project’s interventions benefit to the greatest extent the primary target groups to ensure maximum impact.
- Technical supportive field visits:** Technical supportive field visits were conducted by SUN TA technical staff, and line ministries implementing agriculture and livelihood activities in the districts. The field visits were conducted to determine the status of the soy fields and vegetable gardens, identify Lead Farmers and farmers to plant orange sweet potatoes nurseries and to verify the number of Follower Farmers recruited. Other supportive visits included Ministry of Community Development and Social Services to determine performance of the CSLGs and check for correct targeting and compliance to the methodology to improve group performance. The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries conducted visits to all 13 districts to determine the status of the village chicken value chain and provided on-site recommendations to Demonstration and Follower Farmers.

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,

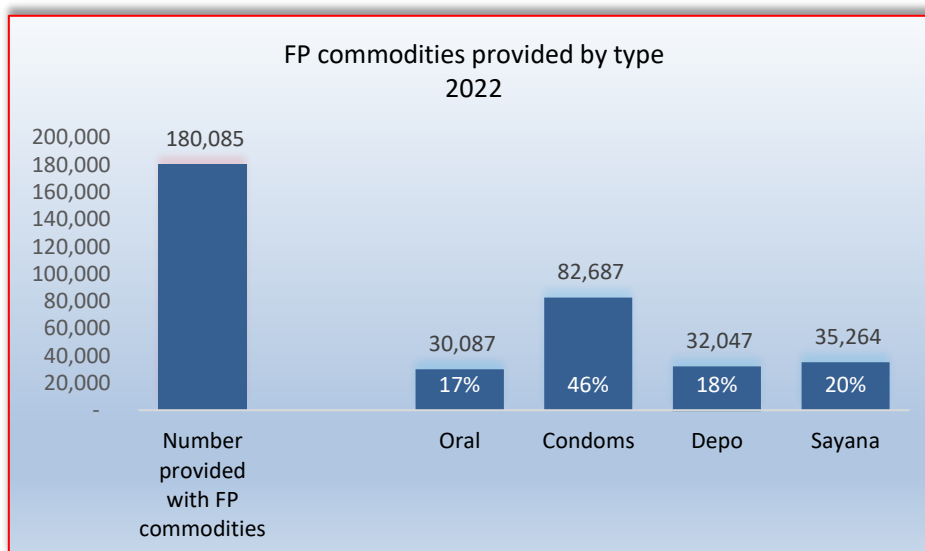
breastfeeding women, pregnant adolescents, and children under two years of age. Also, the project supports delivery of community-level family planning interventions and integrated early childhood development (IECD) activities. SUN TA works closely with the Ministry of Health and other related key line ministries to deliver these activities to reach beneficiaries at the community and household levels.

- **Community-Led Total Nutrition Triggering:** During the year, the project explored ways of increasing its coverage and reach to bring more households to benefit from the project. This saw the introduction of a new community action approach called CLTN, modelled on the CLTS used in WASH. CLTN focuses on creating demand for nutrition services, empowering communities with knowledge and triggering them to act against the identified nutrition problems in their localities using own solutions with minimal external support. To facilitate execution of this approach, trainer of trainers (TOTs) were conducted for district level government and SUN TA staff, with 39 (F: 21; M: 18) trained from 13 districts plus Lusaka. The TOTs subsequently trained 226 Catchment Area Coordinating Committee (CANCCs) members from six key line ministries namely, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development to implement the model at community level. Monitoring visits showed that communities were responding by adopting the recommended behaviors such as establishing backyard gardens to improve nutrient intake, pregnant and lactating mothers joining SMSGs, households constructing toilets to improve sanitation and hygiene. The CLTN approach was adapted from SNV who piloted it in Uganda and Zambia and represents the project's willingness to learn from what works.
- **SUN Mother Support Groups:** Formation of SMSGs is an important activity on the project as it is through SMSGs that mothers learn correct maternal and child health practices that are crucial to the prevention and reduction of stunting. CBVs use the health facility as an entry point to identify pregnant and breastfeeding women who are then recruited into an SMSG run by a CBV closest to their home. In 2022, 79,502 women were recruited through 5,105 SMSGs that provided maternal and child health (MCH) services to women in childbearing age and children under two years. The formation of that number of SMSGs translated into a 95 percent achievement against an annual target of 5,360 SMSGs. SMSGs remain a key avenue for organizing eligible women to participate in MCH activities that are integral to reducing stunting. Through these SMGs, 15,137 pregnant women (11,529 normal pregnancies and 3,608 teenage pregnancies) were reached with nutrition-specific interventions. Of the 79,502 women who were recruited in the SMSGs, 13,240 were linked to agricultural activities and 15,034 to CSLGs. Cumulatively, 68,001 eligible clients participated in SMSG sessions across the 13 districts. Topics covered included importance of good diet in pregnancy, importance of early antenatal attendance, appropriate age specific nutrient-dense diets, and importance of diversified diet. In the same period, 57,348 children aged 0 – 23 months were reached with nutrition-specific interventions of which 1,129 were vulnerable children (1,046 low birth weights and 83 were children whose mothers had died). In 2022, SMSGs continued to undertake the following activities that respond to the improved health of mothers and children:
 - **Cooking demonstrations:** CBVs used cooking demonstrations to support mothers to gain skills and confidence to prepare various locally available foods, often harvested from SUN TA supported gardens, so that their meals retain nutritional value. Correct food preparation is essential for the retention of nutrients, which is key to the prevention of stunting. During cooking demonstrations, mothers are encouraged to replicate the practices at home, while CBVs emphasize the same during their SMSG sessions.

- Health and nutrition talks: Using the knowledge gained during trainings, CBVs support mothers through interaction and open discussions on the importance of attending antenatal care visits, nutrition in pregnancy, IYCF standard practices, importance of early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, and complementary feeding thereafter.
 - Essential hygiene actions: CBVs facilitated discussions with mothers on the importance of handwashing with soap at five critical points – before breastfeeding baby, before preparing/handling food, before eating, after using the toilet, and after changing baby’s diaper. Also, the WASH team demonstrated how to set-up handwashing stations using a tippy tap, an example of how thematic areas are converging and complementing each other.
 - Mothers in CSLGs: SMSGs are a convergence point for agriculture and livelihood interventions and act as a platform for facilitating discussions with mothers on how they can be involved in savings and loans groups, as well as how savings and income generation activities are linked to nutrition. Community Facilitators, recruited and trained by the SUN TA Agriculture and Livelihoods team, interacted with the SMSGs, and trained them of the CSLG methodology. By getting Community Facilitators to work with SMSGs, the project is creating linkages with other interventions.
 - Support to fellow mothers: The purpose of SMSGs is not just for mothers to learn under the guidance of the CBV, but also for mothers to provide social support and peer learning to each other. In Q3, SMSGs visited mothers who had missed meetings or those who needed special attention. Such a practice has potential to make mothers feel cared for and included.
- **Integration of SMAGs in SMSGs**: Safe Motherhood Action Groups (SMAGs) are trained community volunteers that work closely with health facilities on issues of safe motherhood and neonatal activities through counselling and provision of information to pregnant mothers and new-born care. As their work is similar to what other CBVs are doing with SMSGs, the project took stock of the current CBVs already trained as SMAGs so that their skills can be better utilized within SMSGs and information on safe motherhood made prominent in SMSG sessions. Of the 4,931 active CBVs, 1,002 were identified as SMAGs trained in the provision of MCH services. In 2023, the trained SMAGs will continue to work within SMSGs and emphasize the important element of safe motherhood and neonatal activities to make the package comprehensive.



- Provision of Community Family Planning Services:** Delivery of family planning services at community level has proved useful in increasing uptake of services by people who would otherwise have not made the trip to the health facility on account of distance, especially in the more remote rural areas. The CBDs providing the service live within the same communities as their clients, thereby making access easier. In the year under review, 1,976 CBDs provided family planning services to 188,124 clients compared to 212,247 in 2021. The reduction is attributed to limited stocks in family planning commodities experienced in health facilities providing family planning services. Out of the 188,124 who received family planning services including counselling, 180,085 received different types of family planning commodities and of which, 30,087 received oral contraceptives, 67,311 injectables (32,047 on Depo and 35,264 on Sayana) while 82,687 received condoms (73,367 male condoms and 9,320 female condoms). Additionally, 3,972 were referred to health facilities for further management for services that are not provided at community level. Family planning is an important integral component of nutrition as lack of it at the appropriate time can affect maternal and infant nutrition practices negatively. Family planning helps mothers to space births and as such have more time to take care of their children.



- Early Childhood Development:** In 2022, SUN TA implemented early childhood development (ECD) activities at health facility and community level within SMSGs. ECD is one channel through which children aged 0 – 23 months are provided with an opportunity to learn through stimulation, communication, and play. In addition to the 146 ECD corners established across the 13 districts, the project increased the activity at community level. In the year under review, 2,705 CBVs conducted ECD activities at community level, providing key messages such as importance of communication and play with children, demonstration to women how to make age-appropriate toys using locally available materials, and identification and prevention of illnesses and assessment of developmental milestones.
- Technical Supportive Visits:** Technical supportive visits were conducted throughout the year to all 13 districts. Some of the findings included that CBVs were on the ground and providing services through the SMSGs channel which include conducting cooking demonstrations, provisions of family planning services, health talks. The NFNC, accompanied by SUN TA, also conducted a technical field visit to learn what SUN TA was doing and provide the required technical support. Some of the challenges noted during the visits were erratic supplies for family planning commodities for CBDs across the districts

which consequently affected the number of clients accessing the services at community level. Another challenge was late transmission of reports from catchment areas.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

SUN TA's WASH thematic area focuses on three core interventions: hygiene promotion, sanitation (critical for preventing fecal contamination of the environment), and water access, quantity, and quality. In 2022, SUN TA continued to support hygiene interventions including the promotion of handwashing with soap and clean water at critical times, food hygiene, and environmental hygiene, all of which support improved nutrition outcomes (inclusive of proper separation of fecal matter from the environment). Also, SUN TA promoted CLTS focusing on social and behavior change and capacity-building such as: building and usage of latrines, practicing optimal handwashing with clean water and soap at critical moments, practice key food safety actions, and properly dispose of (adult, child, and animal) feces. SUN TA works with the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development to increase access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene at household and community levels. The nutrition-sensitive WASH interventions aimed at increasing access to safe water through the rehabilitation of broken down waterpoints and construction of new water points.

Sanitation and Hygiene

The project continued to support Government to improve community access to sanitation and hygiene. SUN TA undertook various activities to change community attitudes and behaviors on sanitation and hygiene; improvement of latrine/toilet design, the adoption/improvement of hygienic practices, solid waste management, wastewater disposal, care, protection and maintenance of drinking water sources, and other environmental measures.

- **Mobilizing church, traditional, and civic leaders for CLTS:** In 2022, the project continued to work with various community leaders as key partners in the implementation of CLTS. Traditional leaders and their royal councils were triggered in CLTS, and this would see them lead in sanitation and hygiene campaigns contributing to the 817 communities attaining ODF. For example, [REDACTED] (unfortunately now late) took a leading role and was very influential in creating sanitation demand in his chiefdom. As a result of his influence, four health facility catchments - [REDACTED] - attained ODF. The power and influence of Church leaders was also leveraged through the District Administration Offices. Given their role in upholding beliefs, cultural values, and social tradition, churches are in a prime position to mobilize communities for behavioral change on sanitation and hygiene. The D-WASHE committees mobilized and collaborated with Church leaders, reaching a whopping 346 churches to help them appreciating the CLTS approach and promote improved sanitation and hygiene standards among their members who constitute a large segment of the community. Targeting church gatherings reinforced other community efforts and helped in increasing the number of communities that attained ODF in 2022 as church leaders continued emphasizing sanitation and hygiene during church services and other religious meetings.
- **Role of leadership:** Strong leadership at higher levels such as traditional authorities helped to reinforce the project's progress and sustainability. Traditional authorities wield more powers than village heads and put in place sanctions to prevent slippages within their areas of jurisdiction. For example, [REDACTED] agreed a set of punitive measures with community members, e.g., fines paid in the form of a chicken or goat for practicing open defecation and unhygienic behavior. In stark contrast, in places

where traditional authorities demonstrated weak leadership or are non-existent such as in [REDACTED], achieving ODF has been difficult.

- **Communities certified ODF:** In 2022, the project continued supporting communities in 12 districts (except [REDACTED] whose communities all attained ODF in 2021) to ensure they scaled up CLTS activities leading to the attainment of ODF status. Out of the annual target of 1,500 communities for ODF attainment, the project facilitated the certification of 817 communities, translating into 55 percent achievement of the indicator. Overall, this brings the total number of ODF communities achieved to 1,642 (68 percent) out of the life of project target of 2400. Further, working with EHTs; Community Champions (CCs) and SAGs, 322,015 new latrines were constructed or upgraded to ODF standard to serve 921,191 people with access to improved sanitation. This is an 83.7 percent achievement against the target of 1,100,000.

[REDACTED] held its celebration on October 21, 2022. Despite more than a year having past from the time certification was made, the district has managed to sustain the achievement by having approaches that are encouraging people to climb the sanitation ladder and also be their 'neighbors keepers' in providing peer to peer sanitation compliance monitoring. The ODF celebrations also played an important role in motivating community members to strive for attainment of ODF status. The celebrations served as learning events for other traditional authorities. The issuance of ODF certificates to traditional authorities added another dimension, with communities becoming proud of their achievement and striving to maintain their status and prestige.

Indicator Code	Specific Year Results				Cumulative Achievements from Inception (2019 - 2022)	2022 Zambia Census Preliminary Results	Yet to be reached populations based on the 2022 Census population (Relative to the HL.8.2-2 indicator performance)
	2019	2020	2021	2022			
HL.8.2-2	0	236,280	1,356,902	921,191	2,514,373	4,132,397	1,618,024

- **Promoting hygiene in communities:** During the year under review, SUN TA worked with the relevant government line ministries, traditional leaders, civic leaders, and other community structures including different categories of CBVs to facilitate discussions on the practice of optimal personal, food, water, and environmental hygiene. Against an annual target of 1,100,000, the project facilitated access to basic hygiene for 1,488,124 people across all the 13 districts. SUN TA will continue to employ social and behavior change strategies in 2023 to ensure more people are reached with hygiene messaging and practices, leading to the attainment of the overall goal of stunting reduction through safer environments. Monitoring visits by the D-WASHE committees and ODF Certification Teams revealed that most households were practicing good WASH behaviors at household level like handwashing, use of toilet, refuse disposal pits and dish racks.
- **Capacity building for new GRZ staff and community champions:** Government staff and community volunteers (Community Champions) play a pivotal role in the successful implementation of CLTS on the project, hence the need to have them equipped so they can be relied upon. To increase the capacity of GRZ staff to implement and monitor CLTS, SUN TA has been building the capacity of government staff transferred to other health facilities after the initial CLTS training. This activity targeted staff who had succeeded the transferred, demonstrated a lack of commitment, or were completely new and never trained on the CLTS model. During routine monitoring, onsite mentorship and coaching was

provided to GRZ staff, Community Champions, and SAGs to ensure they served their respective communities effectively.

- **Capacity building for Sanitation Action Groups:** To empower SAG members on the operations CLTS, the project supported the D-WASHEs through the respective Local Authorities to conduct a SAG orientation targeting all the health facility catchment areas. SAGs play a critical role in ensuring community members sustain the newly acquired behavior beyond the triggering session by conducting regular visits to households for follow up actions to address the highlighted concerns on sanitation and hygiene. In 2022, the project oriented 1,762 (126 percent) SAGs of equal gender representation against a target of 1,400. The new SAGs will be useful in helping communities maintain their ODF status and sustain the changes gained through social and behavior change activities.

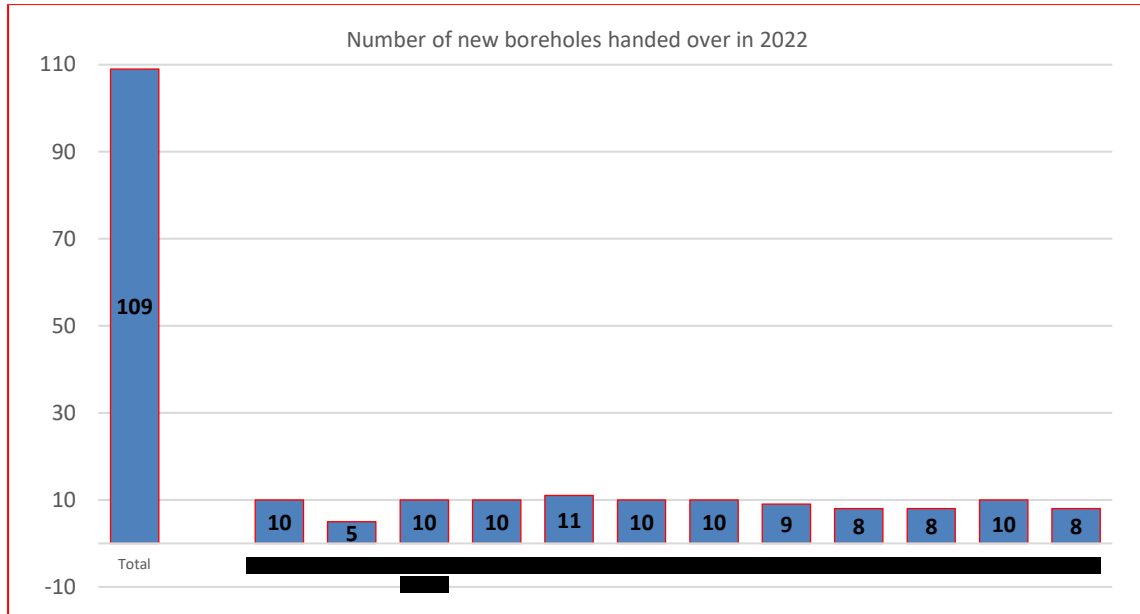
- **Contribution to Thought Leadership:** Through an [article](#) published in *Sanitation Learning Hub*, an online platform that shares information on sanitation, the SUN TA WASH expert shared lessons learned from the CLTS activities in [REDACTED], which attained ODF status in 2021. Another article was published in November in the *Zambia Daily Mail* to mark World Toilet Day.



Access to Safe Water

SUN TA and relevant government ministries collaborated to deliver clean, safe water to communities across the 13 districts in 2022. The main activities included borehole repairs by SUN TA trained APMs, borehole rehabilitations, and construction of new boreholes by subcontracted drilling companies.

- **New boreholes completed and handed over to communities:** Out of the 153 new boreholes completed in 2021, 109 were handed over to communities in 2022 resulting in 118,736 people gaining access to clean and safe water. The new waterpoints have provided a huge relief to communities 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. For the 2022 target of 107 boreholes, 35 boreholes were drilled and completed in [REDACTED]. At the time of reporting, post-construction water sample testing was being conducted by [REDACTED]. The 35 completed boreholes will be handed over to communities in early 2023. Other cooperating partners constructed 108 boreholes in [REDACTED]. There was a noticeable increase in the construction of new waterpoints by government through CDF and other cooperating partners. For example, two water schemes were constructed in [REDACTED] using CDF, one in [REDACTED] and four sites in [REDACTED] were identified and were in tender evaluation stages.



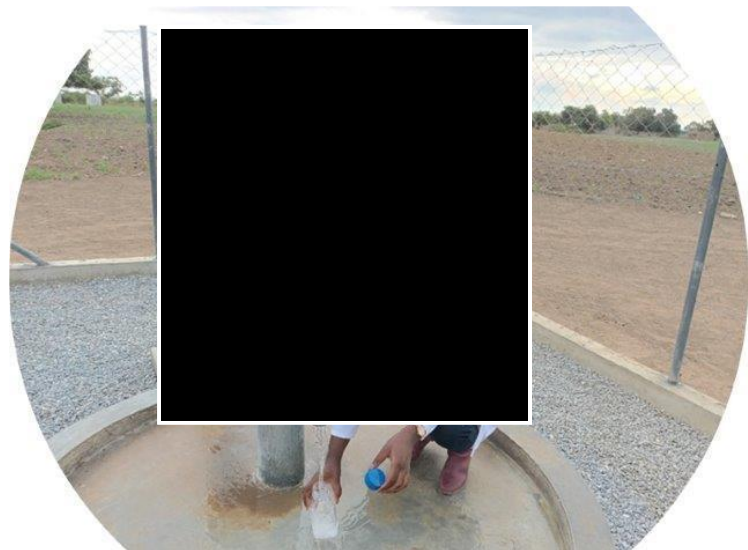
- Repair and maintenance of boreholes by Area Pump Menders (APMs):** To guarantee continuous functionality of the water systems and sustainability of water service delivery in the beneficiary communities and institutions, the trained APMs during the reporting period repaired and serviced 654 water points, which has greatly contributed to the sustainable provision of clean and safe water to 203,714 people. The community based APMs play an important role, massively contributing constant flow of clean and safe water to households. Their contribution reduces the downtime and helps reduce the average time to source water and back, which was found to be 9.6 minutes (Annual Indicator Assessment Final Report, 2022). Further, the APMs supported the V-WASHEs in conducting the stipulated scheduled tasks in the borehole logbooks.



- Rehabilitation of boreholes:** In preparation for the 2022 borehole rehabilitation, 691 waterpoints were assessed and water samples collected for analysis. Out of the 691 waterpoints, 39 failed water quality analysis as they had exceedance of allowable limits for different parameters either nitrates, lead or arsenic. From the 691 boreholes assessed, the project's target was to rehabilitate 400 in 2022, which target has since been moved to 2023 and 2024 due to various delays in contracting processes. Further, 56 borehole

rehabilitations left over from 2021 in [REDACTED] are earmarked for completion in early 2023 due to the stated delays. In 2022, the project handed over to communities the balance of 130 boreholes rehabilitated in 2021, resulting in 55,599 people accessing clean and safe water.

- **Drilling and constructing of new boreholes:** During the year, 150 sites were identified for the drilling and construction of new waterpoints, out of which 107 were contracted out in all districts except [REDACTED]. The two Drilling and Construction Contractors (DCCs) engaged were [REDACTED]. The DCCs managed to complete the drilling of 48 boreholes and completed civil works constructions and handpump installation on 35 waterpoints awaiting post construction water quality testing and handover approvals. The drilling works have since been suspended due to heavy rains making it difficult for heavy duty drilling machinery movement. Like the borehole reconstructions, the variance in meeting 2022 target of newly drilled boreholes was also because of delayed budgeting and approval in borehole contracting processes.
- **Water Reticulation Schemes (WRSs):** A Task Order for borehole drilling at the pilot WRS site in [REDACTED] was approved by USAID. The Task Order has undergone final approval before issuance and signature by the proposed drilling sub-contractor to be done in early 2023. Due diligence on handover, operation and maintenance was yet to be finalized with the [REDACTED] and/or water utility company.
- **Quarterly Water Quality Testing:** SUN TA working with the various government line ministries/ departments conducted water quality monitoring on all handed over waterpoints. In conformity with its Water Quality Assurance Plan (WQAP), the project supported the D-WASHE committees through Ministry of Health to conduct routine water quality assessments by collecting 985 water samples from 397 water sources. The results were within the acceptable limits. The samples were collected in pairs to conduct bacteriological and chemical analysis. The analytical findings for bacteriological tests were compared to World Health Organization guidelines and Zambia Bureau of Standards for drinking water quality parameters. Routine water quality monitoring event is conducted to determine if there is any environmental adverse impact on the water quality of the constructed and rehabilitated Boreholes in the district to maintain appropriate safeguards. In the third quarter of 2022, USAID approved a revised WQAP and moving forward water quality monitoring on all completed new and rehabilitated boreholes will be done semi-annually and annually.
- **Technical Supportive Field Visits:** SUN TA made technical visits to all the districts which gave the project an opportunity to gain feedback from district stakeholders. The attendance at these meetings ranged from District Commissioners to Council Secretaries/Town Clerks



and from Directors of Public Health to Public Health Officers. GRZ head of departments made commitments to improve their support for the project. Visits to health facilities and communities provided anecdotal evidence of reductions in the incidence and prevalence of diarrheal cases, which was suggested by health staff and confirmed by CBVs. With the involvement of more traditional leaders, demand for sanitation and hygiene will be upscaled and management of WASH facilities (like water points) will be more sustainable. This is because traditional leaders facilitate communities to come up with by-laws requiring subjects to construct toilets or contribute toward borehole operations and maintenance, with associated penalties for defaulters. These by-laws are a crucial part of the multi-pronged approach needed to achieve national WASH targets and improve the general well-being of community members.

At national level, staff from the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation accompanied by [REDACTED] and SUN TA staff undertook a supportive monitoring visit in [REDACTED] to assess progress in implementation of WASH activities and challenges being faced and give recommendations. With the increased allocation of Constituency Development Fund (CDF), MWDS directed Local Authorities to prioritize WASH activities in their approval of capital projects. They said the ministry had in its 2022 budget included procurement of bicycles to ease movements of Community Champions in selected chiefdoms and funding for other chiefdoms which have not yet received any support from GRZ to end open defecation.

Cross-Cutting

Social and Behavior Change (SBC)

SUN TA's SBC strategy is aimed at increasing the adoption and maintenance of healthy behaviors by addressing barriers that contribute to stunting and enhancing motivators to social and behavior change. Across the project's four pillars, a holistic SBC approach has been adopted to ensure that knowledge and structural barriers are addressed through facilitated discussions on the prevention of stunting while CBVs and SUN households are supported with appropriate skills 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. Others include community mobilization (engaging influencers such as traditional, civic, and religious leaders; interactive drama performances, and using public address system for announcements) and media (radio programs, jingles, spots, and announcements).

In 2022, the project undertook several activities to contribute to the adoption of positive behaviors among households such as better childcare practices, improved sanitation and hygiene through chlorination and boiling drinking water, importance of constructing latrines and handwashing stations, growing and consumption of diverse, nutritious foods, formation of CSLGs, and establishment of micro, small and medium enterprises as a source of livelihood. As a cross-cutting theme, SBC activities will continue being rolled out to support adoption of positive behaviors across thematic areas.

- **SUN Happy Home Campaign:** The project undertook various activities as part of the Happy Home Campaign - a household-based campaign which will encourage community members to adopt desired behaviors crucial to the reduction of stunting at household level and create a community movement behind the project's priority areas on behavior change. A 'Happy Home' is defined as a SUN household demonstrating key desired behaviors

crucial to the reduction of stunting in line with SUN TA's four core pillars. While eight priority behaviors aligned to government strategies were selected for the campaign, households demonstrating progression in the adoption of some desired behaviors will be recognized through the placement of door stickers and encouraged to support other households.

- **Insight Gathering:** This exercise was undertaken in four districts ([REDACTED] [REDACTED]) from October 17-21, 2022 to gain a deeper understanding of contextual issues that serve as barriers and enablers of these behaviors. Information generated through this exercise will inform development of key messages that will respond to these contextual issues and facilitate the process of adopting and maintaining priority behaviors.
- **Development and pretesting of the campaign tagline:** Three taglines were translated into local languages and subjected to the process of pretesting in five districts after which one was selected. The selected tagline 'Raise a healthy family through good nutrition' was integrated into the campaign identifier to form part of the branding of the campaign.
- **Engagement of local community organization:** A local community organization was engaged to support the process of orienting local drama groups in the thirteen districts to deliver participatory theatre for a multi-sectorial nutrition campaign using theatre for community action (TCA). The theatre for community action is a creative approach and powerful way of putting across messages with the aim of stimulating community action to address identified problems and issues. TCA will be used with and by communities and groups to collectively research and critically analyze their own situation, develop, and perform artistic and cultural content that reflects their reality and actively engage the audience in dialogue, analysis, planning, and action towards positive social transformation.
- **Field visit by USAID SBC Advisor:** The USAID SBC Advisor undertook a field visit to [REDACTED] from November 14-16, 2022 to provide technical support in the implementation of SBC activities. Feedback and recommendations from the field visit which included interactions with technical teams at district level, government stakeholders, CBVs and project beneficiaries were used to improve the project's SBC approaches and activities across the four pillars.

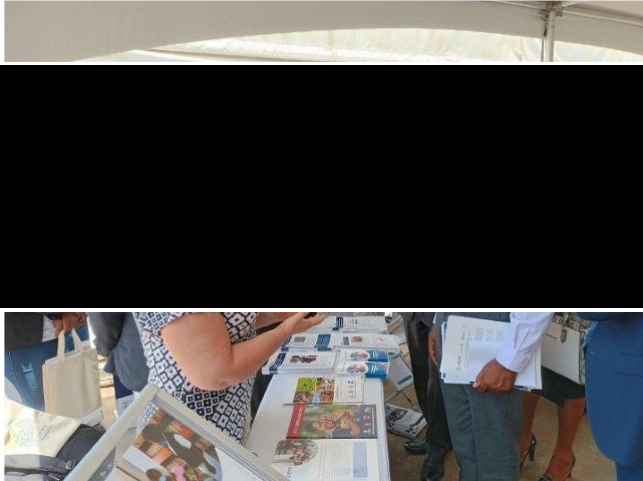
Communication and Media Activities

Communications is critical in sharing what the project is accomplishing and learning to external audiences nationally and across districts. In 2022, the SUN TA Communications and Learning Manager participated in the USAID communications training held for all its implementing partners providing insights on various aspects of communications, branding and visibility.

- The project produced success stories alongside Quarterly and Annual Reports, social media posts, and radio programs on various project activities. The project's activities were covered in the national print and electronic media.
- To increase accessibility of the project's work, the project produced and printed a summary version of the 2021 Annual Report which was shared with USAID, NFNC, Government implementing line ministries at national, provincial and district level.

- To demonstrate project impact, the project produced a brochure of selected success stories dubbed ‘*Community Voices*’ which was shared with various stakeholders including USAID, Government ministries and beneficiaries.
- To increase project visibility, the project printed the standard USAID project factsheet for dissemination at project offices and events. Also, USAID approved the project videos produced in 2021 and were first shared at the High-Level Nutrition and will be used at other events to showcase project achievements.
- **National Events and Commemorations:** SUN TA participated in several commemorations/events/exhibitions in the year as follows:
 - **World Water Day, Global Handwashing Day, and World Toilet Day:** As one of the lead actors in the water sector, the project supported the Government to organize and commemorate World Water Day on March 22. Marked under the theme “ground water: making the invisible visible,” the day was used to raise awareness on the importance of water and the plight of two billion people globally living without access to safe water. In the capital ██████████ supported the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation to organize the event by providing financial support. SUN TA also participated in the commemoration in its 13 districts of operation. SUN TA participated in the Global Handwashing Day in October and the World Toilet Day in November to support awareness on everyone having access to a toilet which is safely managed to avoid environmental contamination. The districts undertook different activities like the radio discussions and door to door campaigns by community volunteers to promote ODF.
 - **Child Health Week:** SUN TA financially supported government efforts in making the biannual Child Health Week successful across the 13 districts. The project supported the CBVs to reach more pregnant women and children under two and linking those that were not registered in any SMSGs to the nearest SMSGs. CBVs were involved in activities such as deworming of 12–59 months children, Vitamin A supplementations, health and nutrition education, growth monitoring antenatal and postnatal services. To create awareness on the Child Health Week activities, radio programs were aired across the various radio stations in the districts.
 - **World Breastfeeding Week:** The project similarly supported World Breastfeeding Week activities that took place in their operational districts. The theme was “Step Up for Breastfeeding Educate and Support”. SUN TA mainly supported radio programs that were aimed at sensitizing the local community on the importance of breastfeeding for child survival as well as technical support in the formulation of key messages for radio discussions. Some of the topics that were discussed included overview of World Breastfeeding Week; importance of breastfeeding week; some common challenges breastfeeding women face and how to address them; accessing information from SMSGs and general benefits of belonging to a SMSGs where information on maternal and child health, including breastfeeding is provided.

- **USAID Mini Expo:** In November 2022, SUN TA Project joined several other USAID projects in Zambia in showcasing its activities at a major event graced by the Minister of Finance, the U.S. Ambassador and USAID Mission Director. USAID was launching two new projects with a combined value of over \$44 million named USAID Business Enabling Project and USAID Trade Boost aimed at increasing trade and investment between Zambia and the region, the continent, and the United States. Alongside the launch, various USAID-supported projects exhibited their work to underscore the support that the US government through USAID is providing to Zambia in different sectors of the economy.



visited the SUN TA stand and explained to him that the project was working with various Government departments to reduce malnutrition in the country and handed him a brochure of the project's success stories.

- **High Level Nutrition Event:** The project in November 2022 participated in a High-Level Nutrition Engagement Event that brought together various Government agencies, donors, implementers, and researchers/academia. The purpose of the meeting was for the various cooperating partners and donors to demonstrate their contribution to the fight against malnutrition through the various programs and projects they are supporting in the country. The officiated at the meeting where she acknowledged and thanked cooperating partners for their support to Zambia and pledged Government's commitment to reducing malnutrition. SUN TA was part of the organizing committee and sponsored visibility materials for the event.
- **Children's Television Documentary:** SUN TA supported Peripheral Vision International (PVI), a media NGO, to shoot a documentary that helps children increase their knowledge on various social and economic issues. Dubbed the Next Generation (N-Gen) series, the documentary covered Kenya and Zambia. In Zambia, SUN TA was one of the three USAID-funded projects selected to be part of the series and took the children to see the project's WASH activities in The children and the film crew were shown how the project is helping improving community access to clean and safe water and how the safety of the water is guaranteed through regular water testing onsite by environmental authorities and at the national laboratory in Lusaka which the children also visited.
- **Development of 2023 Workplans:** SUN TA worked with the NFNC and the various government coordination structures, SUN TA facilitated the maiden decentralized work planning and budgeting for 2023 in all the districts in line with the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). Each district had all their respective Ward Nutrition Coordinating Committee (WNCCs) plans for the year 2023 based on lessons learned in 2022 and priorities for 2023. The WNCCs plans were collated and provided the basis for the District Nutrition Coordinating Committee (DNCC) Multisectoral Nutrition Plan for 2023. The Provincial plans were also based on the DNCC plans. While the project made

these huge efforts, most of the plans were not included in the resultant MTEF cycle because departments did not have clear guidance from Cabinet Office to fund these priority nutrition programs. Guidance was that the project needs to engage cabinet office to include this communication in the 2024 budget circular.

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. The following are the highlights from the implementation of MEL functions:

- **Joint Monitoring Visits by DNCCs and Provincial Nutrition Coordination Committee (PNCCs):** The project successfully institutionalized multisectoral monitoring visits among PNCCs and DNCCs with the objective of facilitating increased monitoring of program implementation and achieving sustainability demonstrated through local structures fully assuming the implementation and coordination roles on the MCDP II program. All districts conducted a minimum of two joint monitoring visits and the activities were either led by the PNCC or the DNCC and in some instances, without the presence of project staff. The monitoring teams comprised representatives of line ministries and members of the M&E technical working group (TWG) and in some cases high ranking government officials such as the Permanent Secretary or the District Commissioner.
 - [REDACTED] conducted a DNCC and PNCC joint monitoring visit to two catchments, [REDACTED] the leadership and involvement of the Provincial Deputy Permanent Secretary and the District Council Secretary. The entourage appreciated the achievements attributed to the project and especially that convergence of benefits was effectively demonstrated during the visit.
 - [REDACTED] applied the outcome mapping tool to document success stories, identified high performing follower farmers to recommend for graduation into lead farmers and investigated cases of duplication of incentives among the project supported CBVs/beneficiaries and will employ the catchment mapping tool to counteract the duplication of such incentives.
 - The DNCC Chairperson for Luwingu District commended SUN TA for supporting joint monitoring visits, as the district is able to monitor progress on activity implementation, establish the extent of convergence of nutrition interventions, taking stock of data capture tools, appreciating challenges faced at catchment level and in improving data quality
- **Data Collection and Verification:** All districts conducted routine data collection and verification involving line ministry staff and M&E TWG, joint monitoring visits to the catchments by the DNCC and PNCC, capacity strengthening of project structures in data collection and local use of data to influence context-specific decision making. The project revised the paper-based data capture tools and updated the electronic data capture platform (DHIS2) to align with the evolving project data needs. Analyzed data fed into decision making processes including monthly data dissemination and use sessions during SMT meetings, district program review meetings, national M&E Technical Working Group

meetings and report production. To improve the quality of data generated at community and catchment level, CBVs continue to be mentored and oriented on the data collection tools and government officers on the DHIS2 data entry platform. The project also conducted a data tracing and verification exercise targeting district, catchment, and community structures.

- **Scaling-up Digitalization of Data:** The project scaled-up the digital data collection initiative to all districts and catchment areas with 968 Agriculture Camp Extension Officers, Environmental Health Technologists and Clinical Officer/Nurses trained in DHIS2 data reporting and equipped with mobile phones, SIM cards and monthly data/internet bundles. Within the first few months of its deployment, the project recorded improved reporting by catchment level government officers. There was a remarkable increase for some health facilities and agriculture camps data, following the introduction of the online data reporting platform. For [REDACTED], all the trained health facility and agriculture camp officers were recorded as submitting data online. In [REDACTED] 17 of the 19 health facilities reported using the online DHIS2 platform. Reporting rates under agriculture equally improved with 10 out of 12 agriculture camps reporting following the introduction of the platform.
- **Internal Data Quality Assessment:** In line with the AMELP, the project conducted an internal data audit to verify reported data and inspected the data management systems to determine compliance to the defined standards and protocols. The internal audit was conducted by project MEL staff in all project districts to establish consistency and completeness of data, identified weaknesses, and facilitated identification of corrective measures including follow up actions. The exercise was extended to the catchment and community structures. One key finding was low reporting rates and poor documentation owing to COVID-19 restrictions which entailed reporting via WhatsApp messaging. This was addressed through physical follow-ups to obtain hard copies of the reports for filing at the district level.

Another key finding from the internal data audit relates to the WASH tools, particularly on the indicator: *HL.8.2-2 Number of people gaining access to a basic sanitation service as a result of USG assistance*. While the project standard indicator demands for the capture of people gaining access to basic sanitation and a person is defined as gaining access “if their household did not have similar access,” the tools have a limitation of isolating new access from old access as at any given measurement, all households with a latrine are counted. The identification of households gaining access to improved sanitation is therefore calculated outside the provisions of the tools, thereby presenting a potential challenge of multiple counting. The tools were directly adopted as provided for by government and modifying them to align with the demands of the project performance indicator reference sheets requires government authorization and even before that, wide stakeholder consultation. This was formally communicated to the Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection to facilitate modification and the process has since begun with SUN TA as a key player.

- **Program and Data Review Meetings:** The project supported districts to hold monthly program review meetings with the aim of reviewing data based on indicator performance against annual targets, identifying high/low performing areas and discussing strategies for improving performance. All districts conducted monthly and quarterly program review meetings with a special focus on achieving government buy-in and conducting analysis of catchment level performance, status of activity convergence as well as identifying areas for scale-up. The Program Review Meetings (PRMs) have further provided a platform where

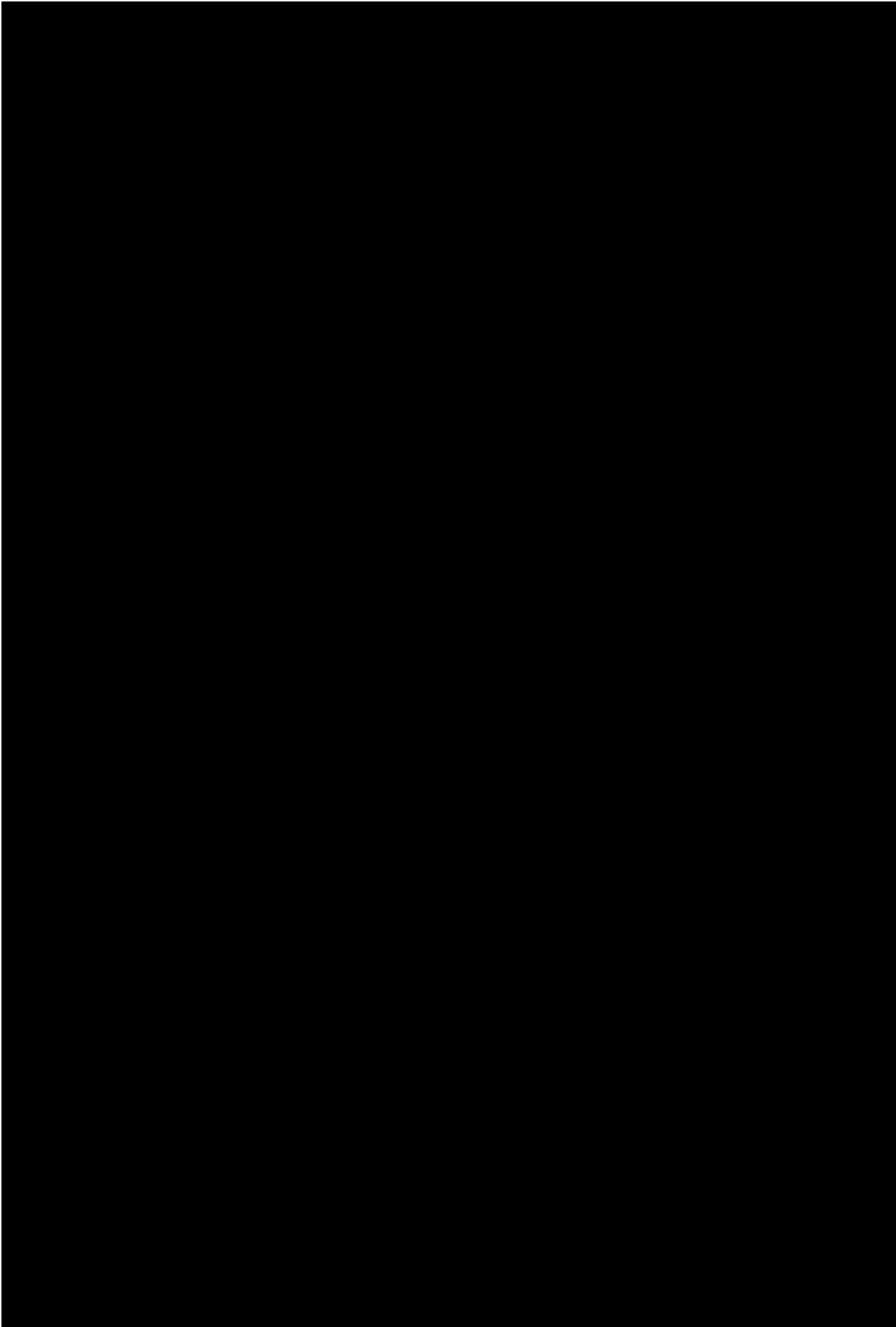
DNCC members are able to review district performance against the set targets, identify challenges and develop strategies aimed at improving district performance. The following are examples of how PRMs influenced district-context programming:

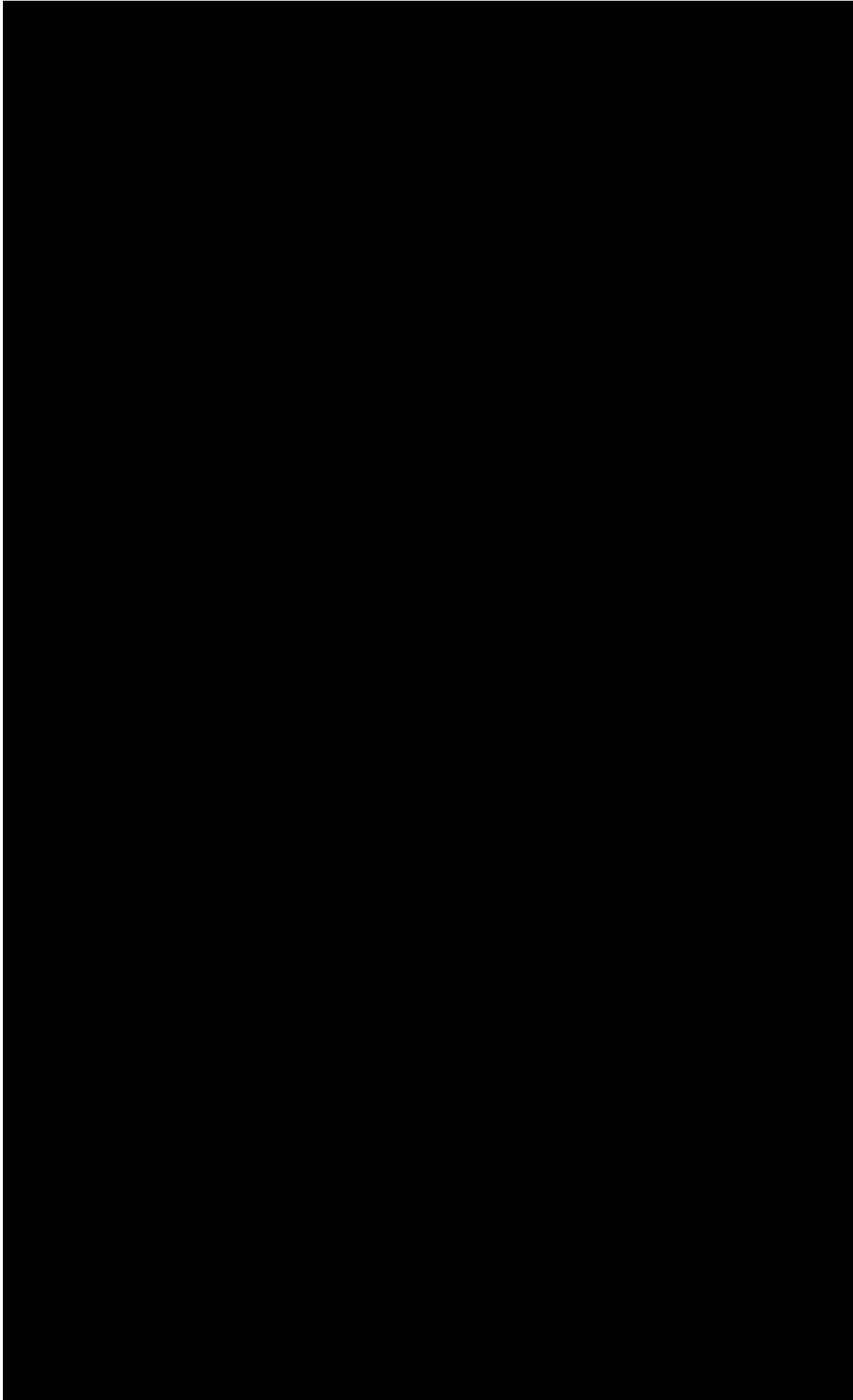
- [REDACTED] used the PRM to highlight the challenges of low reporting rates attributed to Agriculture Camp Extension Officers. The District Commissioner and the District Agriculture Coordinator pledged to support the project in ensuring that there was improvement in reporting.
 - In [REDACTED], the Quarter 2 PRM was officiated by the District Commissioner who pledged government support to district coordination and collaboration and called for full representation during such meetings to enhance coordination for utmost utilization of resources. The meeting was not restricted to SUN TA as other district partners attended and made presentations on indicator results. These include IDE, Child Fund, World Vision, MKP, Environment Africa and Living Water
 - [REDACTED] and with a history of low report submission, the PRMs with an emphasis on the need for data to influence district decision making has resulted in government focal point persons demanding for these reports from the health facilities/agriculture camps leading to improvements in the submission of monthly reports.
 - In [REDACTED] the inclusion of DNCC members in the review of district performance has been linked to the observation of focal point officers taking up ownership of sector results and following up with government officers whose catchments/camps were reported performing poorly.
- **Evidence of convergence:** The project implemented district and national level activities to generate evidence on convergence of activities at household level. The districts incorporated tracking of convergence during monitoring visits often with encouraging outcomes. In [REDACTED] and following discussions with SMSG members, it was revealed that 80 percent had been linked to CSLGs and to the Lead farmers for agricultural support while all confirmed having implemented sanitation and hygiene actions at household level. During the [REDACTED] joint monitoring visit to 13 catchment areas, which included visiting up to 43 households, over 30 households demonstrated 100 percent convergence as the sanitary facilities met all the four parameters of ODF, the households had a backyard garden, the mothers belonged to SMSGs and CSLGs. A similar exercise in [REDACTED] revealed that 90 percent of the sampled households had SMSG members who had been linked to agriculture interventions and 83 percent had been linked CSLGs.

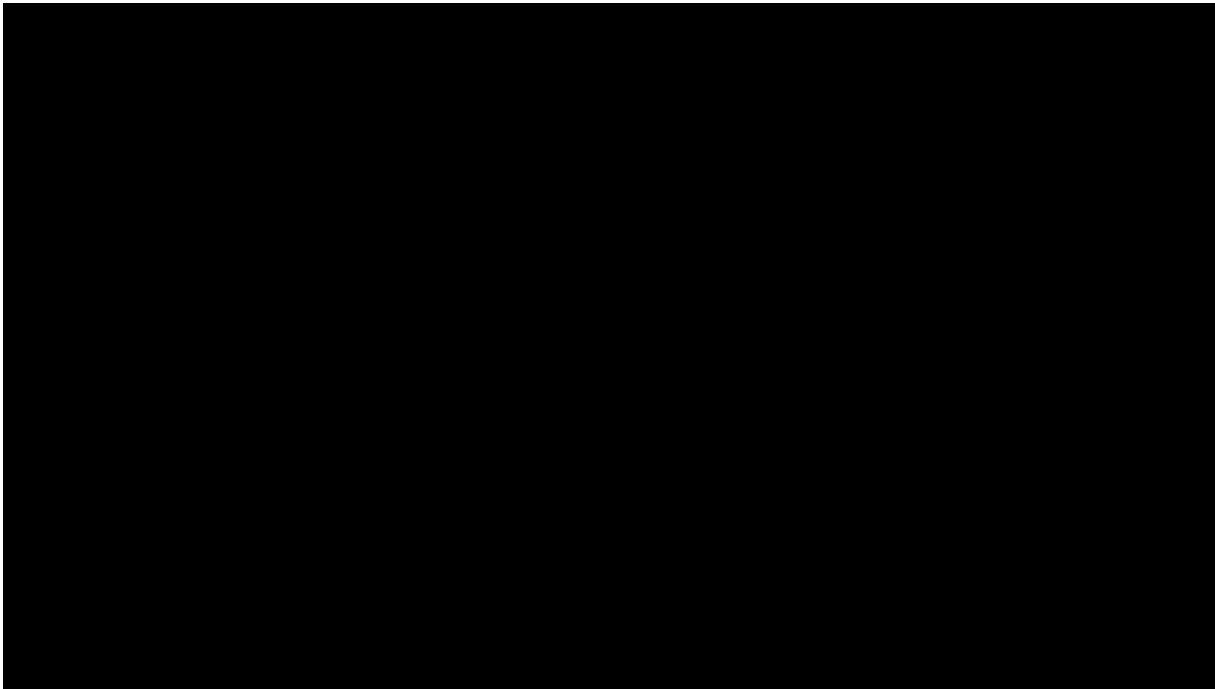
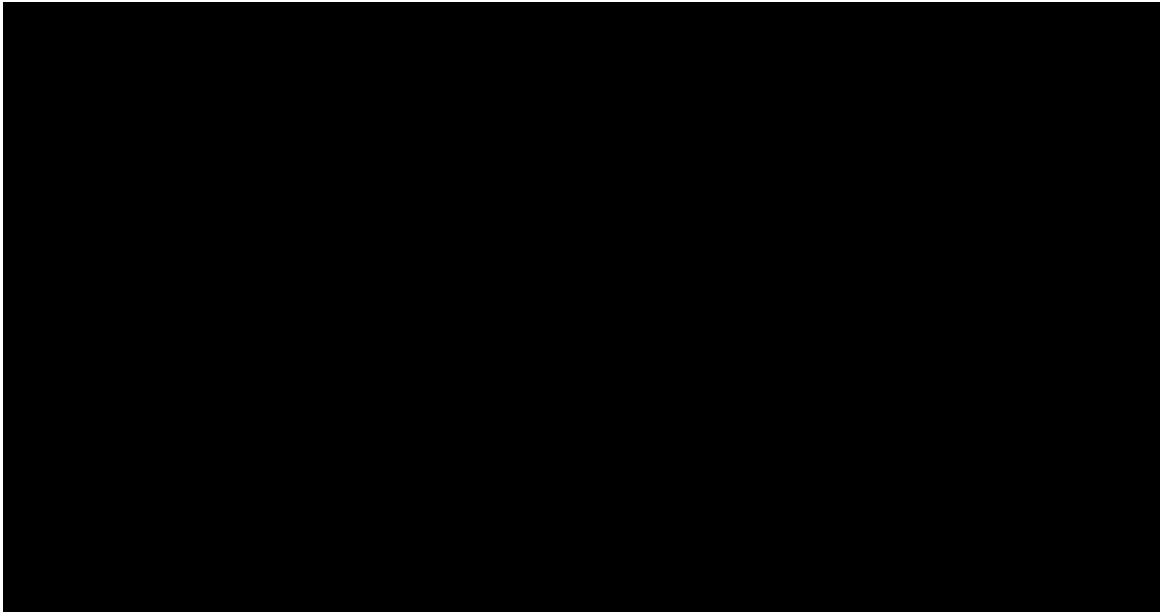
The project conducted focus group discussions on convergence with beneficiaries in [REDACTED]. In each district, 10-12 beneficiaries participated in the discussions to assess their perception on benefits of participating in SMSGs, CSLGs, agriculture input support, and WASH related activities. Benefits derived from convergence of interventions were generally associated with linkages such as learning about improved agriculture practices and hygiene during an SMSG session, receiving agriculture inputs through the SMSG and sensitization and mobilization participation in CSLG through a community-based volunteers. On the benefits of converging nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions at the household level, this varied to include reduction in diseases particularly diarrhea at household level, ability to own a business, knowledge of what to feed children and children “growing up well.” Generally, there was a clear gap in knowledge on the linkage to ultimate nutrition outcomes and this is a gap that the Happy Home Campaign has been designed to address.

- **Demonstrating government uptake of project activities:** The year demonstrated evidence of increased buy-in by government structures for the project-supported initiative further demonstrating ownership of the program. Through engagement with the line ministries/departments, government focal point officers demonstrated leadership in implementing project-supported activities. For program review meetings, the project has since relinquished the convening and chairing role to the DNCC. For district meetings, preference is given to hosting these in government venues before outsourcing and this was effectively demonstrated during the mid-term evaluation sensitization meetings. During monitoring visits, government departments availed vehicles to the M&E TWG, moving away from a practice where SUN TA predominantly facilitated transport. For example, the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock in [REDACTED] availed their vehicles for field monitoring in 12 wards. In [REDACTED], government facilitated transport for the project-initiated data collection and joint monitoring visits.
- **Collaboration with SUN LE:** The collaboration with SUN LE was maintained. The two sister projects held routine monthly meetings to provide technical updates related to research, monitoring, and evaluation, identify key areas of collaboration, and review the operating context for the implementation of the SUN program. The following are the specific areas that the two collaborated on:
 - SUN TA was an active member of the design and study implementation team of the SUN midterm evaluation at national and district level. For example, for the district and community sensitization activities leading to data collection, SUN TA provided logistical and administrative support through the DNCCs.
 - SUN TA was a key informant for the performance assessment spearheaded by SUN LE.
 - For the SUN LE Economic Analysis study on program outcomes and expenditure, SUN TA provided input to the Data Availability Assessment template and completed the template on indicator performance data.
 - SUN TA provided input into the learning products developed with the facilitation of SUN LE and participated in the sector-level dissemination meetings for the drafted information products and learning briefs.
 - SUN TA also shared study protocols and tools for the project rapid quantitative and qualitative studies.
 - SUN LE attended some district program review meetings and apart from contributing to data scrutiny, provided useful feedback on how the conduct of the PRMs could be improved to ensure data facilitates learning and adaptability.

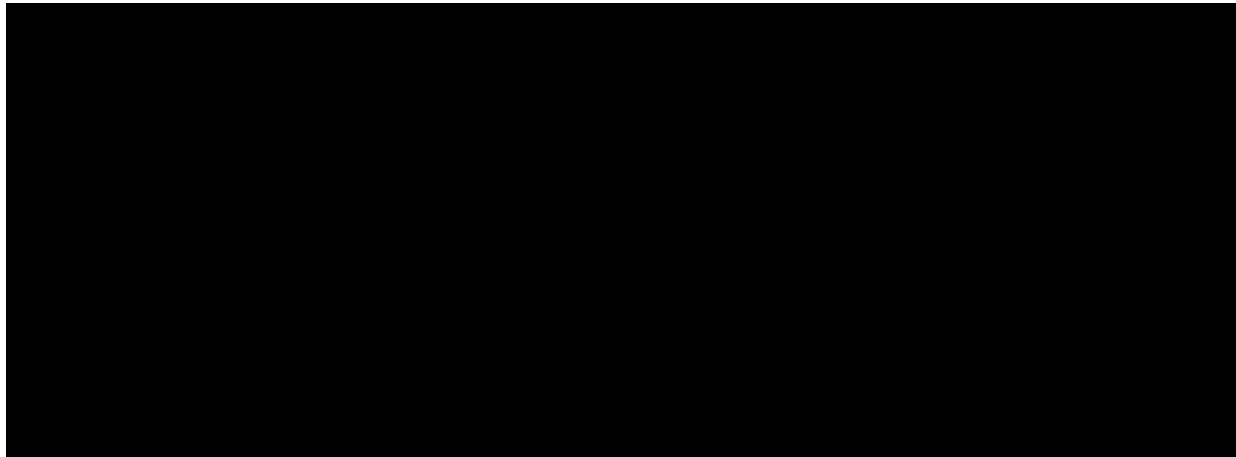
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & PARTICIPATION

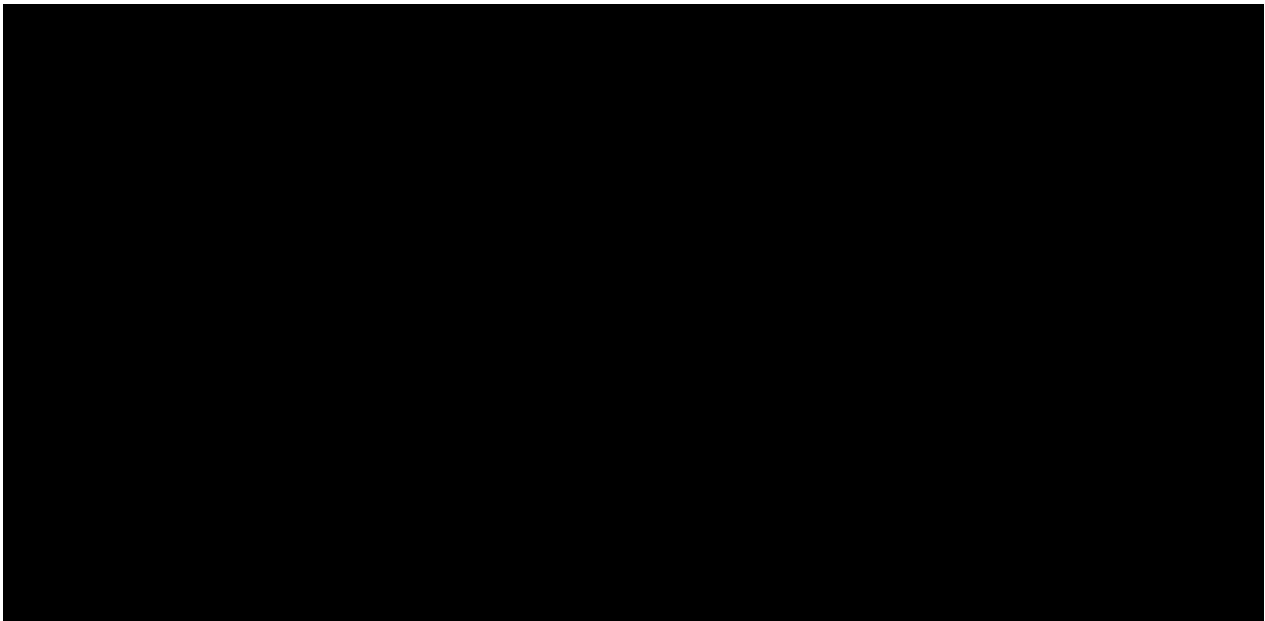




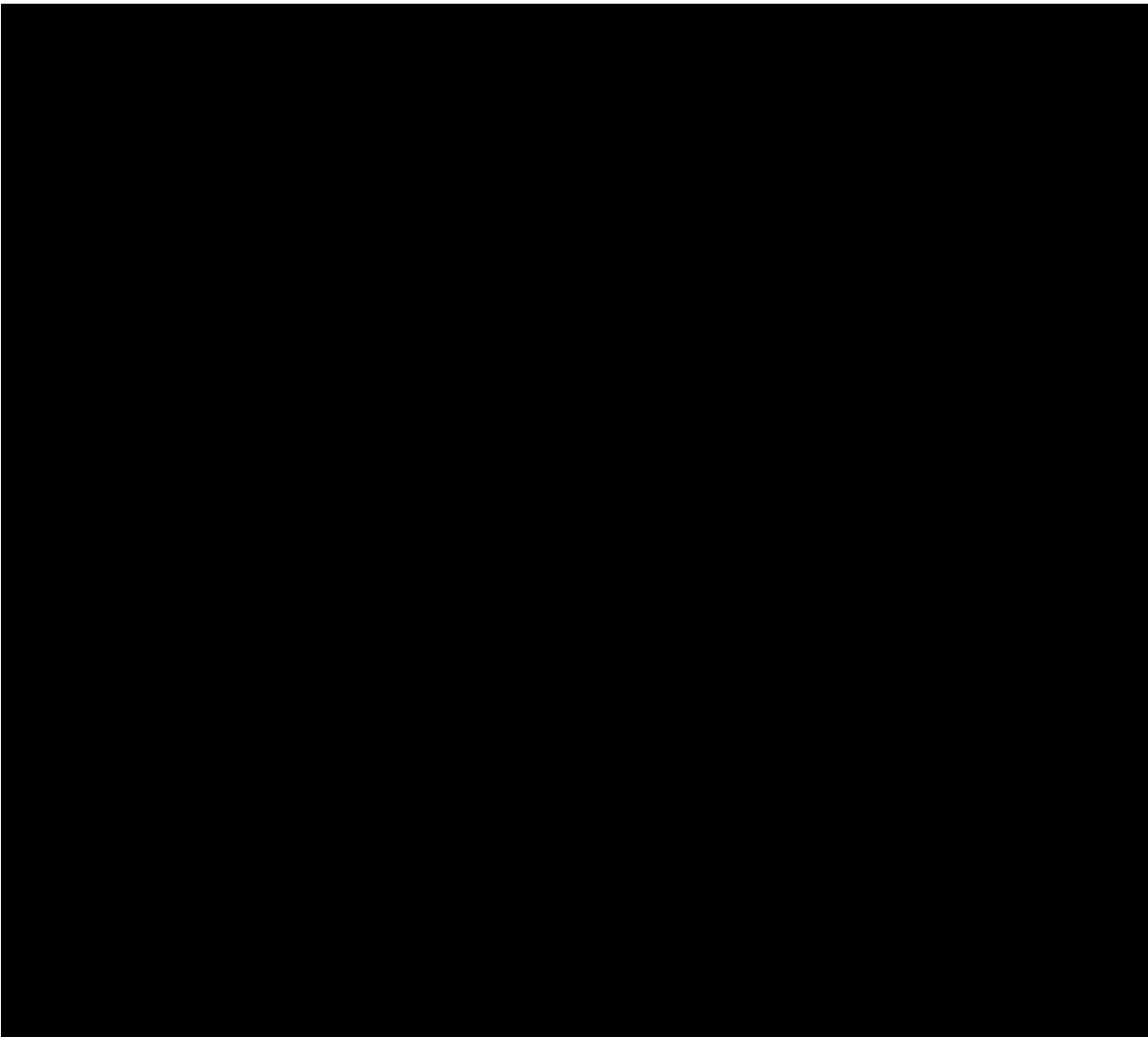


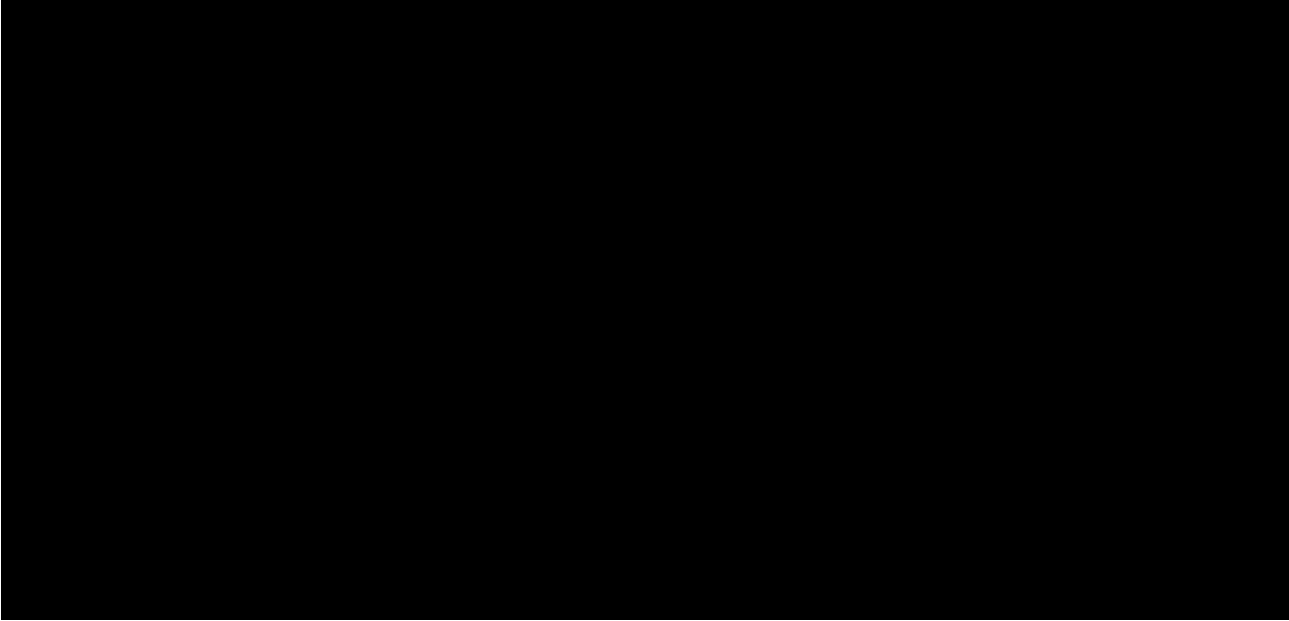
PROGRAM AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT





ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE



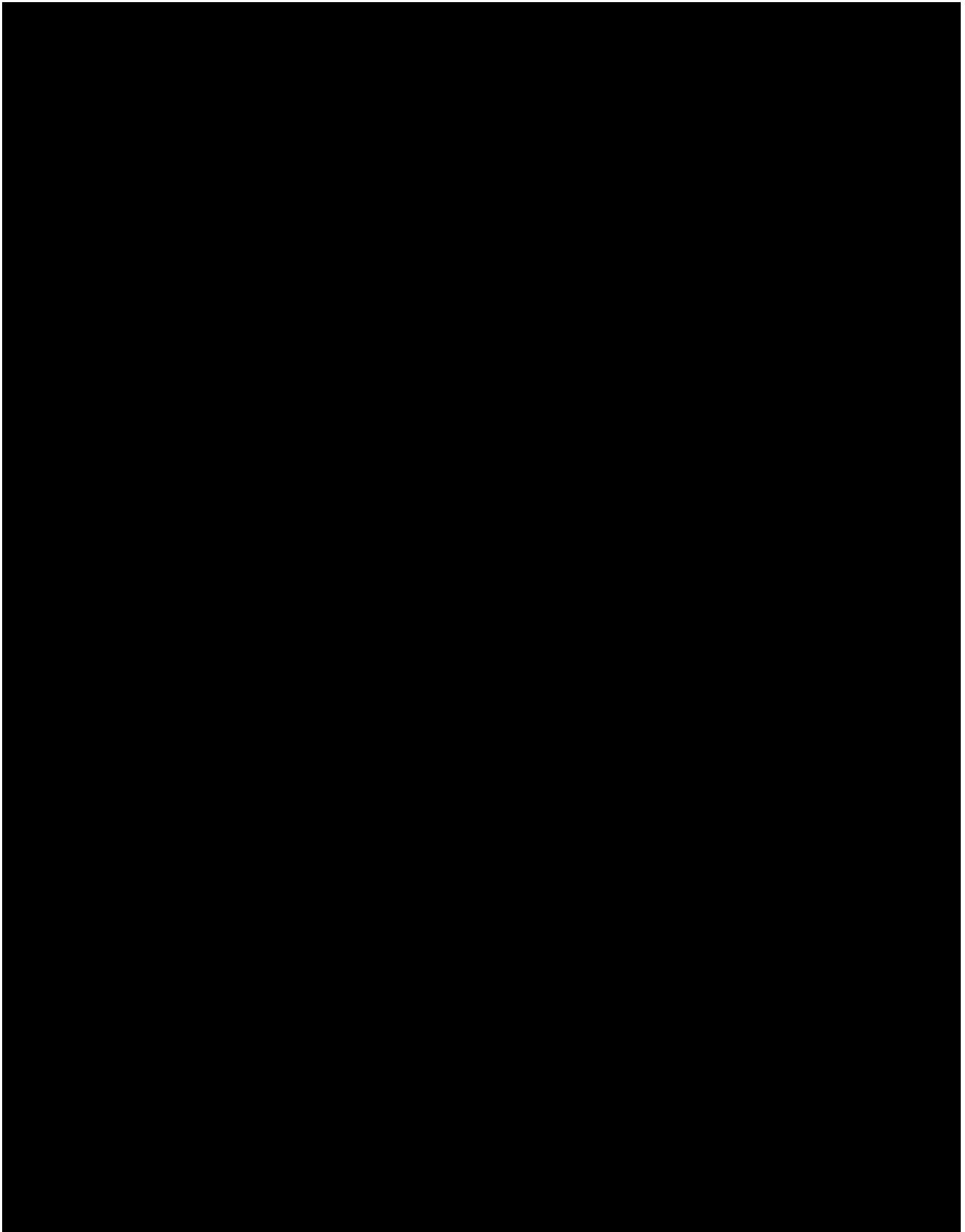


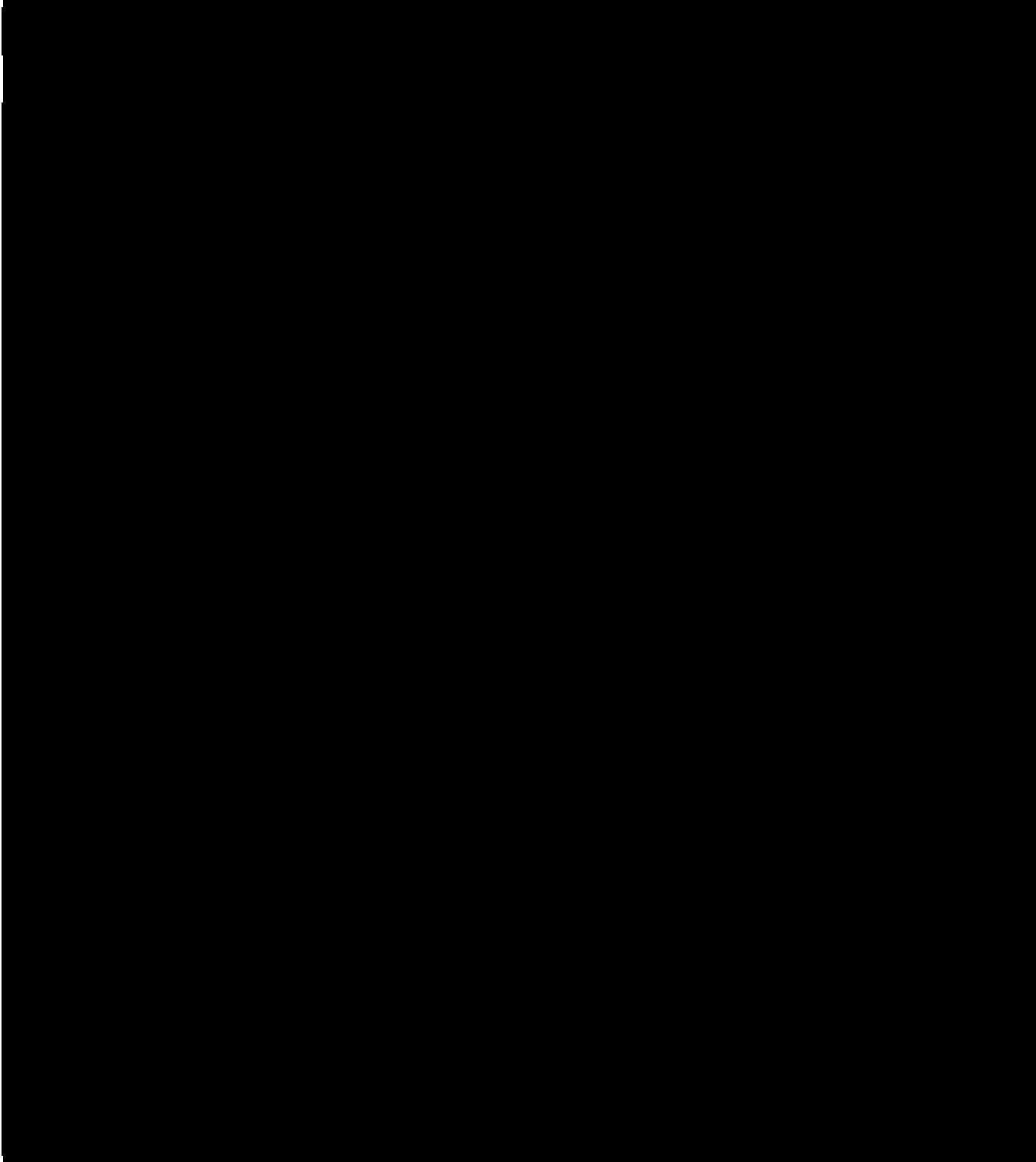
KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- [Redacted]
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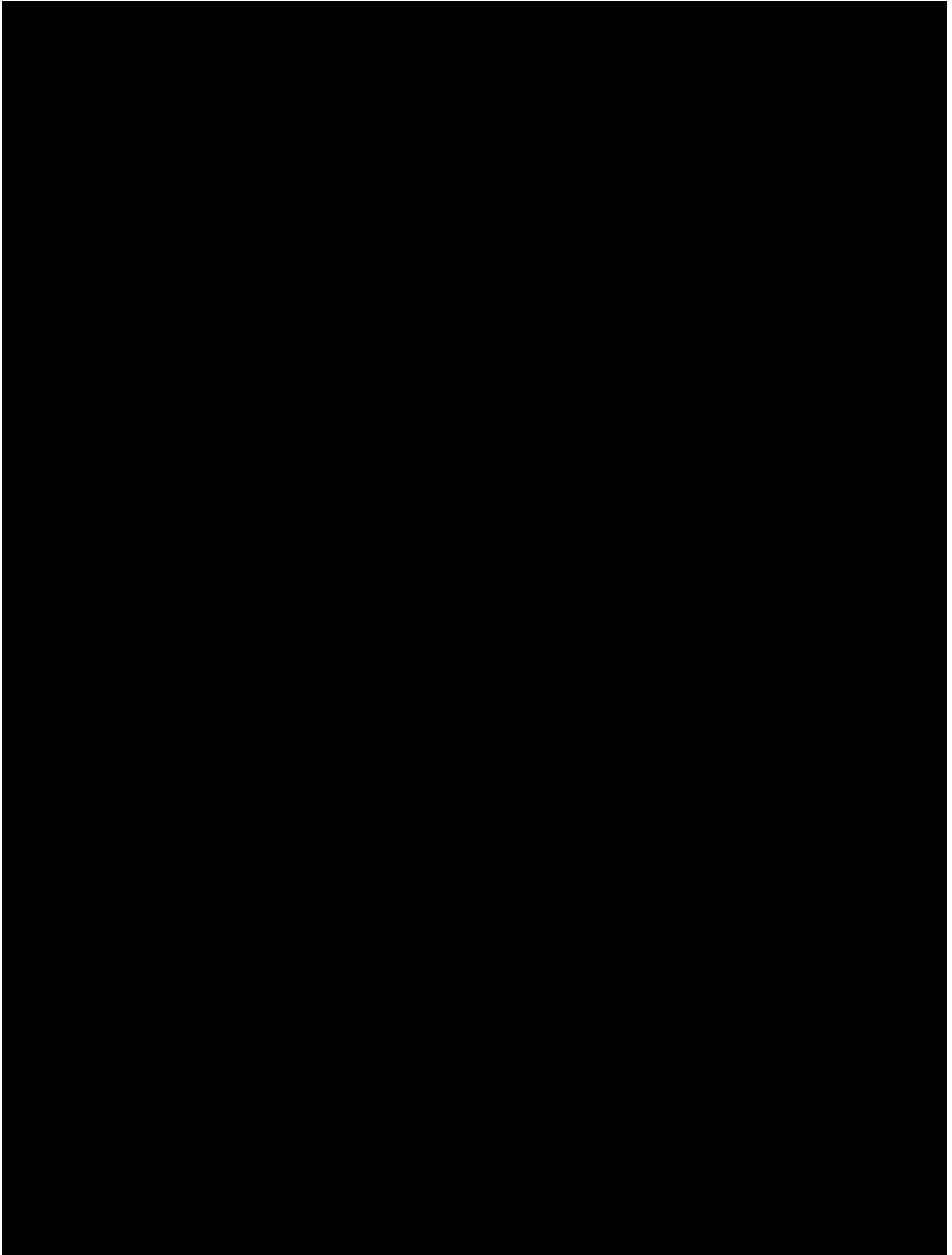


ANNEX A: INDICATOR PERFORMANCE TRACKING TABLE

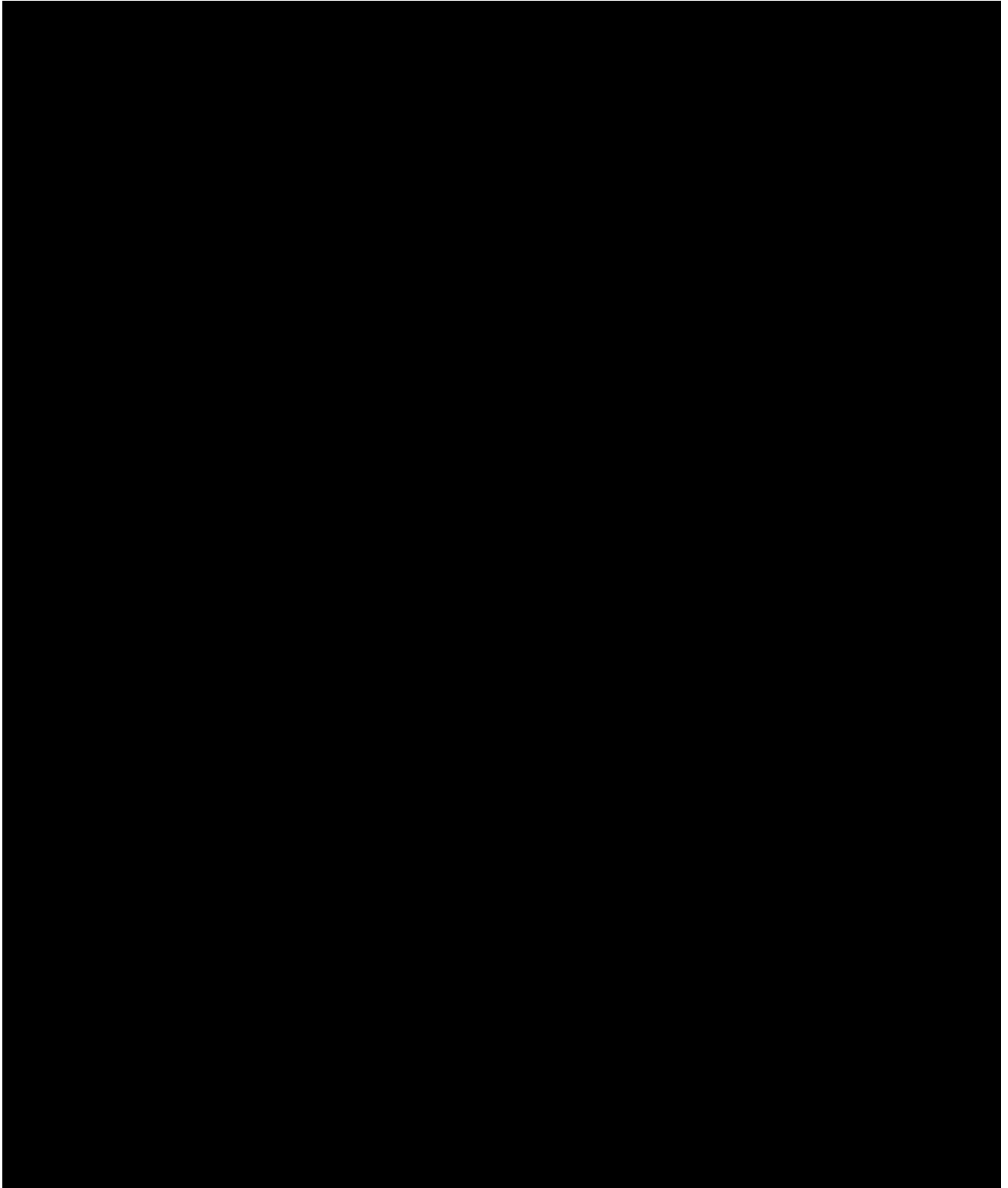




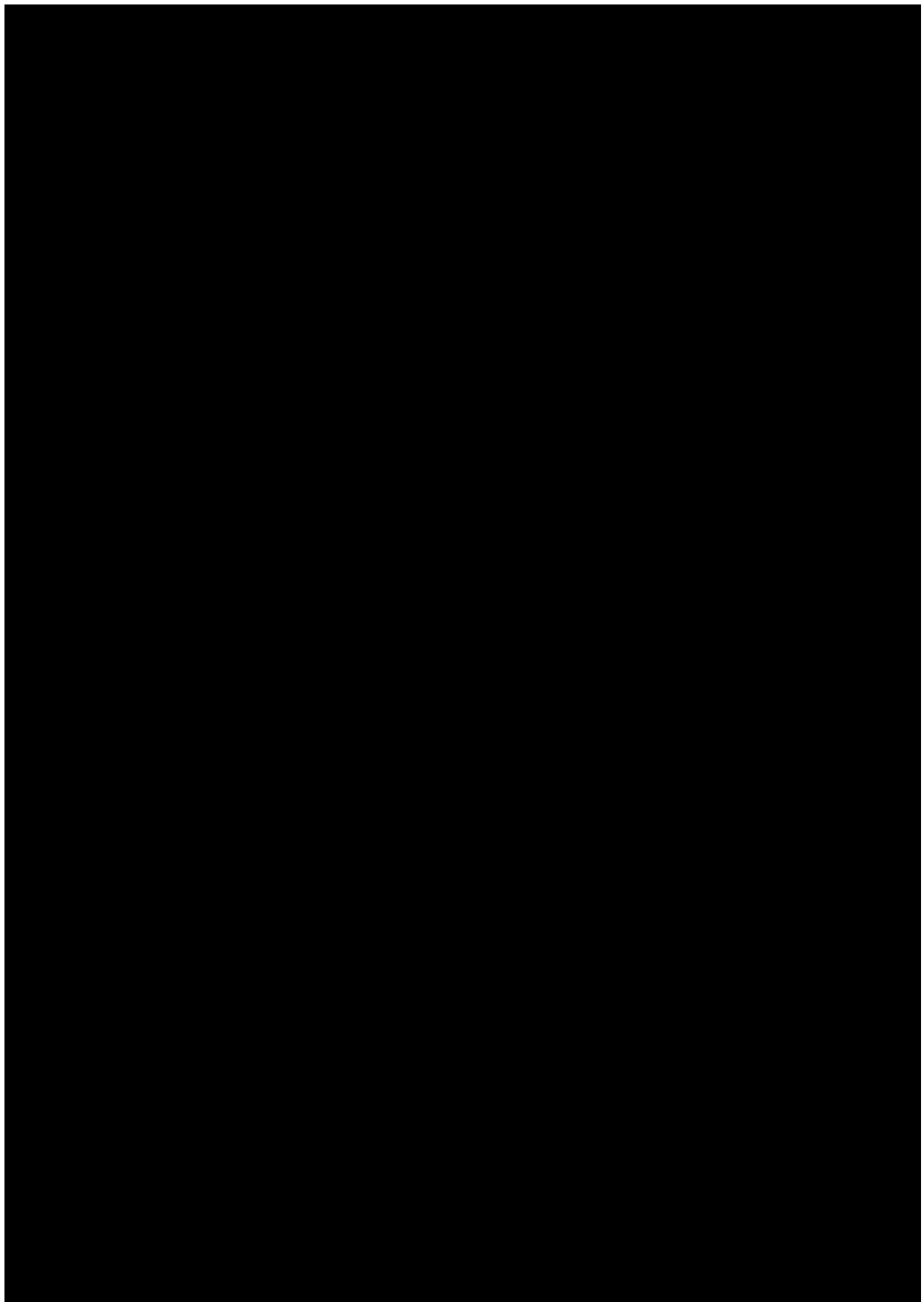
ANNEX B: SUCCESS STORIES

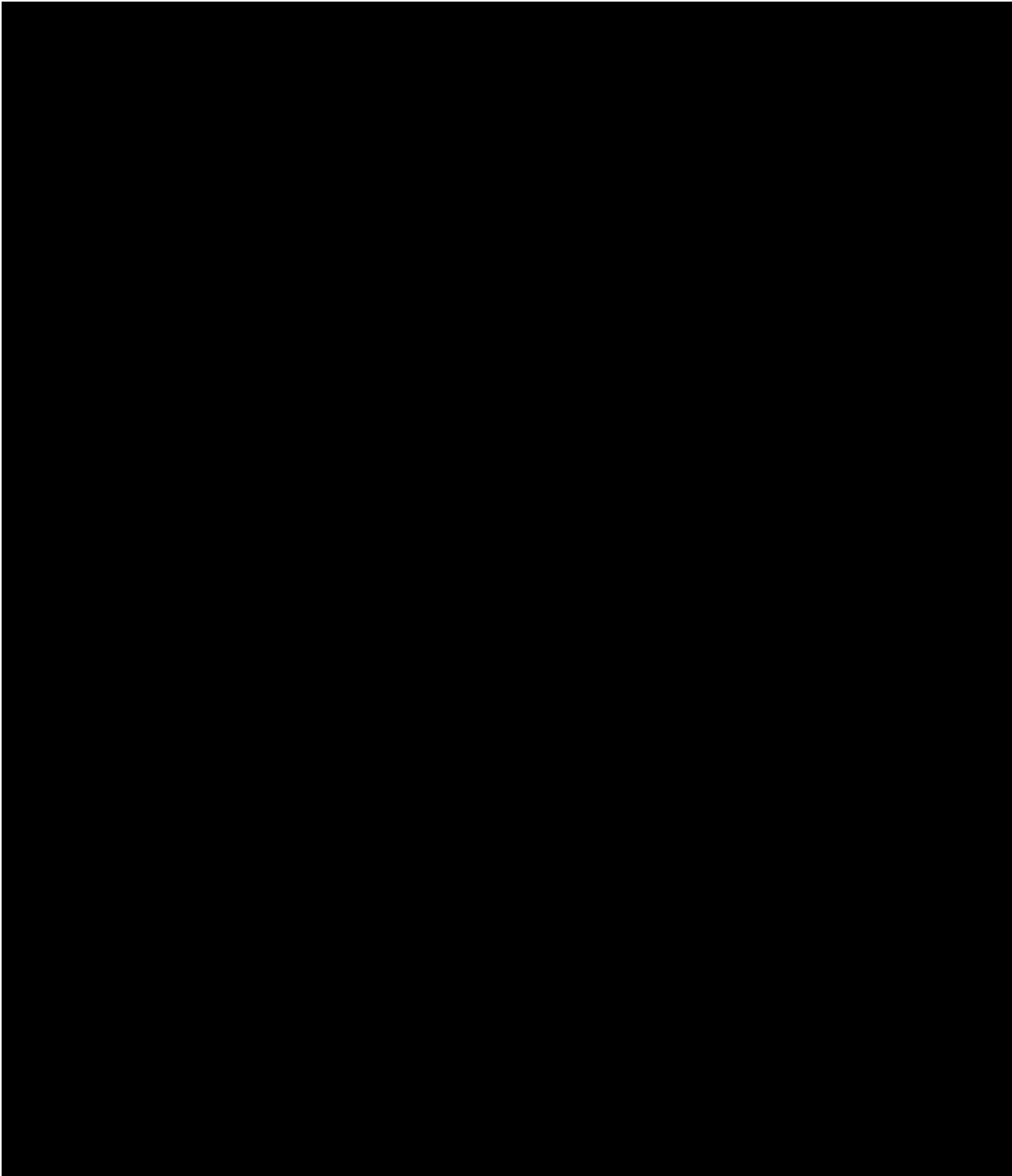


Ndola Women use Savings Group to Boost ECD



Increasing Nutrition Services through Collective Community Action





Translating Financial Literacy into Income

