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ELSEWHERE IN SUN
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We have entered a new year, and Zambia is witnessing an exciting time in nutrition. In 2021, the Government of Zambia, with support from United Nations agencies and cooperating partners, accelerated the implementation of the SUN II programme at the district level. This was despite all the very real challenges and constraints that came with the COVID-19 pandemic. The major highlights of 2021 were the setting-up of the community structures for nutrition service delivery, known as the Nutrition Support Groups, completion of beneficiary registration and the strengthening of coordination among sector line ministries. The leadership and commitment of the District Commissioners, District Administrative Officers, District Nutrition Coordinating Committees and Sectoral Heads has been crucial for concerted and coordinated programme implementation at the district level, with support from the provincial leadership. NFNC’s leadership to enhance coordination at the province and district level and accelerated technical support from UNICEF and other UN partners (FAO, WFP and WHO) was crucial to achieve key results for the SUN II programme in 2021.

In this issue of the SUN II Newsletter, I am pleased to see a good summary of progress made under the SUN-II programme. In this period, the programme registered 538,293 households in 17 districts, formed 757 Nutrition Support Groups and reached a cumulative 258,728 households with health and nutrition interventions, and counselling, in 40% of wards in the 17 SUN II districts. These results will further be improved in 2022 with the scaling up of the implementation in the remaining wards. With upstream work on the development of the Social and Behaviour Change Communication toolkit, establishment of a web-based Management Information System, development of a lessons curriculum for the Nutrition Support Groups, the programme in 2022 is geared towards accelerated implementation at the district level, with strong Social and Behaviour Change Communication activities and Monitoring & Evaluation systems.

On behalf of NFNC, I commend the evolving partnership with the line ministries, SUN II cooperating partners, UN agencies and NGO partners to support the government staff at district and provincial level. I hope the same momentum is maintained in 2022 and that the programme reaches the intended beneficiaries and I hope that improved results can be achieved moving forward.

J.MOFU

SUN II Beneficiary Groups

**1,000 Days Households:** adolescent girls, pregnant women, breastfeeding women, women and caretakers having children under 2 years of age, and women of reproductive age.

**Most Vulnerable 1,000 Days Households:** adolescent pregnancy, low-birth weight baby, under-weight pregnant women, and/or child with severe acute malnutrition.

SUN II aims to achieve four key results by 2023

1. **Sustained practice of optimal nutrition behaviours amongst adolescents, pregnant women, mothers and caregivers of children under two.**

2. **Sustained demand for and use of agriculture, health and WASH interventions for adolescents, pregnant women, mothers and caregivers of children under two and communities.**

3. **Quality nutrition information is used by communities, government and partners for evidence-based decisions, action and advocacy.**

4. **Sustained commitment by government and partners for accountable nutrition governance.**
Scaling Up Nutrition Phase II (SUN II) is a four-year programme (2019-2023) supported by the United Nations (UNICEF, WHO, WFP, FAO) and funded by the European Union (EU), the Federal Republic of Germany through the KfW Development Bank, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Irish Aid and UK aid from the British people. UNICEF works in support of government line ministries and the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC), as well as with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

SUN II delivers a multi-sectoral package of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions, adopting coordinated approaches for service delivery to achieve impact on stunting by focusing on households with adolescent girls, pregnant women, breastfeeding women, children under 2 years of age, and women of reproductive age. SUN II aims to reduce stunting in children under two by 7 per cent with focus on these ‘1,000 Days Households.’

Zambia joined the SUN movement in 2010 and in 2013 launched the first 1000 Most Critical Days Programme (MCDP I) as its flagship programme for reducing stunting. The first phase of SUN supported MCDP I from 2013-2017, with an interim period in 2018 and 2019.

Under MCDP Phase II, the Government of Zambia (GRZ) is building on national momentum around stunting reduction in 42 high priority districts, 17 of which will be administered by the United Nations. Other Scaling Up Nutrition partners supporting MCDP II are: USAID in 13 districts through SUN TA, the Federal Republic of Germany in 6 districts through GIZ’s Food and Nutrition Security, Enhanced Resilience (FANSER) programme, UK aid in 3 districts through SNV (Scaling Up Sustainable Nutrition for All (SN4A) programme) and 3 World Food Programme supported districts.
Inspiring Stories from Southern Province

By Mainza Kawanu, Communications Officer (Partnerships & Visibility), UNICEF Zambia

How agricultural technology is helping rural communities in Zambia boost nutrition

Sometimes successful farming is not just about harvesting a good crop, but also being able to keep it. The town of Monze in Zambia’s Southern Province is known for its smallholder farmers’ agricultural prowess. However, inadequate storage facilities leave their crops at risk of total loss and their incomes and livelihoods vulnerable. But now thanks to the Scaling up Nutrition Phase II (SUN II) programme, small scale farmers are now benefiting from tools preventing post-harvest losses such as hermetic storage bags and plastic silos.

“We truly appreciate the difference this silo has made in our community,” says Mtika Eldridge, a lead farmer under the programme. “It is such a relief to no longer have to worry about what we will plant in the next rainy season as we have stored up enough high-grade grain safely.”

Not only is SUN II focused on improving production practices across its 17 priority districts in Zambia, but it is also improving technologies that will help farmers manage crops after a harvest.

“The community has really benefitted from the knowledge shared through the programme,” says Onesimus Lubilo, another lead farmer within the community. “On a personal note, I now know that good nutrition begins with the quality of seed that is planted, and the quality of the seed depends on how it is stored.”

The silo offers a more sustainable post-harvest practice that improves the quality, quantity and safety of foods for 1,000 days households. These are households that include pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under two years of age.
“Knowing that our livelihood depends on it, we carefully selected the seeds to ensure only the best grain goes into the silos to avoid any spoilage,” says fellow lead farmer Cradius Mweene.

The effort in post-harvest management is part of the multi-sectoral approach SUN II has adopted to address the many drivers of stunting. While stunting levels are improving in Zambia, at 35 per cent for children under five, they remain high for the region.

Lead farmers receive training from Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries through camp officers, with technical support from one of the SUN II United Nations agencies - the World Food Programme. In Manungu ward where Maambo Village is located, the training took place in March 2021. Once trained, the lead farmers are tasked to equip other small-scale farmers - known as ‘follower farmers’ - with the same knowledge they received. Currently, each of the 10 farmers in Maambo village have a cluster of 10 follower farmers attached to them, bringing the total number of households in the vicinity benefitting from the programme to 110.

After the training, a central location was identified where the silo could be stationed. A follower farmer named Euvenia Musosa volunteered her land based on the criteria. Once the location was identified, the farmers were trained on how use and maintain both the silo and hermetic storage bags.

“As a farmer who understands the challenges of storing grain after a harvest, I did not hesitate to offer up the space needed for the silo. I wanted to learn as much as I could about this new technology that can protect grain from rot and pests,” says Euvenia.

This improvement on traditional storage practices will allow households to reduce post-harvest losses due to mould or insects, and then store the crop rather than being forced to immediately sell. This improves food security, and always them more flexibility to also sell when prices are higher.

So far, over 400 lead and 5,000 follower farmers have been trained to promote improved agricultural practices and technologies across 17 SUN II districts. In a developing country like Zambia, lack of appropriate grain storage technologies leads up to 20-30 per cent losses of harvest among rural small-scale farmers.

By Mainza Kawanu, Communications Officer (Partnerships), UNICEF Zambia
Beneficiary registration exercise ramps up fight against stunting in Zambia

“I was a little afraid when I heard that there was a group of people going around our neighbourhood, targeting children under two and pregnant women to sign them up for free food assistance,” says Violet Chifuwe of the beneficiary registration exercise for phase two of the Scaling up Nutrition programme (SUN II) that had just commenced in Monze.

“I thought it was people seeking to get vital information from households for ill intent and purposes, so I was very suspicious and on high alert,” she said.

It was not until Edith Hamilimo, an enumerator who is trained under the programme went knocking on Violet’s door that morning equipped with her computer tablet and just the right information that Violet was put at ease.

The SUN II programme through six government line ministries is registering target beneficiaries across all the 17 United Nations supported districts.

Now that Violet Chifuwe is a registered beneficiary, the programme will work to ensure that she and her household receive a converged package of priority interventions. The data collected will be used to monitor and confirm that she is receiving an evidence-based set of multi-sectoral activities to reduce stunting.

“I am very happy that I met the criteria for beneficiaries. I found the registration exercise simple and straightforward, and I am hopeful that a lot of vulnerable women and children will be selected for assistance.”

About 5km from Violet’s home are newly registered beneficiaries 21-year-old Mweemba and her 6-month-old son Mapalo Chaambwe. Mweemba is a single mother raising Mapenzi with the help of her mother. She was not able to complete her education due to financial hardship, and she dropped out of school altogether when she discovered she was pregnant.

“I am very happy that my son and I have been included in the programme because life as a single mother who is also dependent on a single parent has not been easy,” says Mweemba. They met the criteria for selection based on Mweemba being a lactating mother and Mapalo as an infant under 2 years.

“Stunting is the most common manifestation of chronic undernutrition during childhood. The most vulnerable period is the first 1000 days from conception. Undernutrition in this period can have lifelong impacts on physical growth and cognitive development.”

Violet Chifuwe with enumerator Edith Hamilimo

Mweemba and Baby Mapalo of Freedom B ward
“What I am most excited about is being empowered through this project. I would like to start earning an income through savings from poultry or livestock keeping so that I can be able to meet my son’s needs and even take him to school when the time comes,” says Mweemba.

The beneficiary registration exercise began in May 2021 in the three districts of Lundazi, Chipata and Kaoma and by July, the exercise was underway in 13 more districts except for Lusaka. Lusaka District rolled out the exercise late in October due to the high COVID-19 cases and the election campaigns.

The process leading to the actual registration involved notification to the traditional chiefs in the respective districts on the activity, meetings with Ward Nutrition Coordinating Committee members and headmen, community mobilisation, identification of household records from Neighbourhood Health Committees and actual door to door registration of the beneficiaries.

The District Nutrition Coordinating Committees in the 17 districts were trained on the beneficiary registration approach and the use of the digital tool. They in turn also identified and trained enumerators at ward level. The information collected by enumerators using an application on their tablets is then uploaded to an online storage system and shared with the districts.

The registration teams were comprised of multiple data collectors drawn from different sectors at ward level. Each data collector registered approximately 20 to 30 households a day depending on the terrain and distance between households.

The beneficiary registration exercise has now been completed in all 17 SUN II districts. Out of an estimated population of 685,366 households, a total of 544,170 households have been registered representing 79.4 per cent of the estimated population. Of the beneficiaries registered, 96,563 are pregnant women, 254,129 are children under 2 years old, 386,423 are adolescents and 194,956 are lactating women.

Under SUN II, the next step after the beneficiary registration is the creation of a database for all the registered households which will be linked to the Nutrition Management Information System that will be developed to ensure the convergence of nutrition interventions.
Through trained community volunteers conducting active case finding of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), an average of 123,080 children aged 6 to 59 months have been screened monthly using Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) in the SUN II districts. Consequently, a total of 5,327 children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM were admitted and treated in the Outpatient Treatment Programmes, with 80 per cent of these children discharged as cured, which is above the WHO threshold of >75 per cent. The programme recorded a death rate of 1 per cent, which is below the WHO threshold of <3 per cent.

To promote infant and young childcare feeding practices, Nutrition Support Groups (NSGs) have been formed to reach households with a set of multi-sectoral social behaviour change messages. These peer-to-peer support groups provide a platform to link SUN II households to other nutrition structures, services and activities. Throughout 2021, the focus of NSGs was trainings at district and sub-district level to form groups and adequately equip them to deliver monthly lessons to SUN II households at community level. All district level NSG supervisor trainings have been completed during this period (90 per cent), except for Lusaka due to the heightened COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings and in-person trainings. In total, 341 NSG supervisors and health facility focal persons have been trained. All NSG supplies for community level lesson delivery to SUN II beneficiaries via the NSG promoters and volunteers are ready for use at district level.

The Ministry of Health with support from WHO and UNICEF developed training manuals and Standard Operating Procedures to guide the implementation of the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI). This initiative focuses on building capacity for promoting, protecting and supporting breastfeeding at facility level. Using the BFHI package, WHO supported the Ministry to train 48 health staff who will in turn cascade training to others. A total of 509 health facility staff in Lusaka Province have now been orientated in the initiative to build capacity, resulting in 11 health facilities with approximately 74 per cent of trained staff on BFHI.

As part of the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) programme, a total of 198 health workers and 511 volunteers have received training in IMAM whilst 456 health workers and 1,390 volunteers have been trained in Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF). These two programmes allow children who are admitted with Severe Acute Malnutrition to also receive IYCF counselling. Once they are discharged, the children are also visited by the volunteers in the community for preventive IYCF counselling.

SUN II targeted households are benefitting from the promotion of MAIYCN through Nutrition Support Groups. To support their efforts, 50,000 children’s clinic cards and 22,000 brochures on breastfeeding and complementary feeding, along with other training materials have been made available in all 17 districts.

To promote diverse diets for adolescents and pregnant and lactating women, over 2,000 women from the SUN II households participated in cooking demonstrations across 17 districts during the period. Through this activity, behaviour change messages around dietary diversity and life-stage appropriate feeding for women,

### Highlights from the past six months

#### Outcome 1:

**Sustained practice of optimal nutrition behaviours amongst adolescents, pregnant mothers, and caregivers of children under two years old**

- Through trained community volunteers conducting active case finding of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), an average of 123,080 children aged 6 to 59 months have been screened monthly using Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) in the SUN II districts. Consequently, a total of 5,327 children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM were admitted and treated in the Outpatient Treatment Programmes, with 80 per cent of these children discharged as cured, which is above the WHO threshold of >75 per cent. The programme recorded a death rate of 1 per cent, which is below the WHO threshold of <3 per cent.

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- Using the existing Maternal, Adolescent, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MAIYCN) package, 336 health workers, as well as 362 community health workers have been trained and equipped with knowledge and skills to conduct MAIYCN related activities. To improve on the quality of service delivery; 15 health facility staff and 400 community based volunteers have been mentored in MAIYCN counselling through outreach services for integrated health and nutrition.

- As part of the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) programme, a total of 198 health workers and 511 volunteers have received training in IMAM whilst 456 health workers and 1,390 volunteers have been trained in Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF). These two programmes allow children who are admitted with Severe Acute Malnutrition to also receive IYCF counselling. Once they are discharged, the children are also visited by the volunteers in the community for preventive IYCF counselling.

- A total of 815 SUN II beneficiary women participated in processing, preservation and cooking demonstrations in Isoka and Mpika districts. As a result of these activities, over 170,000 women and caretakers have been reached with breastfeeding messages and over 81,000 women are benefitting from complementary feeding and dietary diversity messages.

- SUN II targeted households are benefitting from the promotion of MAIYCN through Nutrition Support Groups. To support their efforts, 50,000 children’s clinic cards and 22,000 brochures on breastfeeding and complementary feeding, along with other training materials have been made available in all 17 districts.

- To promote diverse diets for adolescents and pregnant and lactating women, over 2,000 women from the SUN II households participated in cooking demonstrations across 17 districts during the period. Through this activity, behaviour change messages around dietary diversity and life-stage appropriate feeding for women,
infants and young children were reinforced with practical skills and food combining practices for SUN II households to use within their homes.

- To strengthen referrals for and quality treatment of acute malnutrition, 142 health workers including 15 national trainers in the 17 districts have been trained on the updated Growth Monitoring and Promotion protocols and skills. These trainings have increased the pool of service providers with updated knowledge and skills on GMP, including improvement in the routine measurement of length and height, which was previously not included.

**Outcome 2:**

**Sustained demand for and use of agriculture, health and WASH interventions for adolescents, pregnant women, mothers, and caregivers of children under two and communities**

- To strengthen connections between health workers, community volunteers and health facilities, seven districts (Chongwe, Lusaka, Monze, Choma, Mongu, Kalabo and Kaoma) received support for strengthening outreach services in the community through the training of health workers on MAIYCN and GMP services. They also received anthropometric equipment (instruments for measurement of different parts of the body). These provided opportunities for strengthened collaboration and connections between community volunteers and health facilities. A total of 3,090 adolescent girls and 21,508 women have been reached with nutrition counselling, over 290,000 children aged 0-23 months reached with growth monitoring and promotion, over 77,000 children under 2 years of age supplemented with Vitamin A, over 42,000 children with deworming, 77,000 children under 2 years of age supplemented and reached with growth monitoring and promotion, over 2,000 health facilities across 17 districts.

- In institutional delivery, antenatal care coverage in all trimesters was 61.4 per cent and 77.9 per cent in SUN II districts as compared to the national rate of 59.3 per cent and 77.2 per cent respectively. The average number of first antenatal care contacts among SUN II districts sat at over 9,000 compared to total district average at over 5,000. In addition, the average number of people between 15-49 starting on family planning was higher in the SUN II districts as compared to the national average in each age group.

- To conduct appropriate referrals for maternal health, family planning and other health services, over 8,000 women of reproductive age, 369 adolescent girls and 968 women have been referred to health facilities for antenatal care and postnatal care services respectively. Similarly, over 38,000 adolescent girls and 17,000 women accessed family planning services from health facilities and community level respectively.

- Through health facility and outreach sites and to strengthen the delivery of adolescent nutrition services, the programme reached a total of 2,105 adolescent girls (1,686 pregnant, 190 lactating, 229 with children under 2 years of age) with nutrition assessment and counselling during pregnancy and lactation. An additional 369 adolescent girls were referred for antenatal care services while 111 adolescents for postnatal care services. Furthermore, 133 health facilities and 221 community youth corners reached a total of 20,197 adolescent girls with integrated Sexual Reproductive Health and nutrition services.

- FAO supported the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in the orientation of 153 officers including district and provincial agriculture, livestock, and fisheries officers on nutrition-sensitive agriculture. Another training session on improved vegetable production was conducted for 39 agriculture district officers in the 17 districts. A total of 24 district and provincial forest specialists have been orientated. This meets the target to have one district specialist from each of the 17 districts and one provincial specialist from the seven provinces.

- FAO conducted a virtual training for 39 agricultural sector district and provincial technical staff on improved homestead vegetable production focusing on keyhole and trench gardens. A seed bank has also been established at the Centre of Excellence for Learning in Shangombo. Seeds for horticultural plants and cereals have been distributed to 241 farmers who have since started growing the vegetables. 40 ‘lead farmers’ have been trained in homestead gardening in Kalabo and Chienge. Overall, the project aims to engage 60,000 most vulnerable households over the period of four years in one or more home food production activities (vegetables, short cycle small livestock, poultry, fruit & tree planting).

- WFP supported the Ministry of Agriculture to increase the availability, quality and safety of nutritious foods. With WFP support, the Ministry has trained 263 district staff and camp extension officers on Post Harvest Management. The trained staff cascaded the same trainings to over 2,000 (49 per cent women) lead farmers in the target districts. WFP produced and distributed 3,500 training manuals on Post Harvest Management. Ahead of field work, WFP supported the development of a food processing and preservation
manual and a set of 11 training cards. The materials will be used by camp extension officers and lead farmers to roll out the trainings with the aim of increasing access to nutritious foods throughout each year.

- To ensure that livestock provision planned for under SUN II district plans has the highest impact on beneficiary households, FAO has supported the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries with a range of strategic livestock/fisheries management trainings and demo sites. In addition, FAO in collaboration with the Ministry are developing a guide on livestock pass-on gifts from one beneficiary to another. So far, over 800 community farmers have been trained in poultry management.

- To increase access to community water services, 53 new boreholes have been drilled, and 100 existing non-functional boreholes rehabilitated. Cumulatively, a total of 60 new boreholes have been drilled and equipped with handpumps and 120 non-functional boreholes have been rehabilitated in three districts of Muchinga (Chinsali, Isoka and Mpika), benefitting an estimated minimum of 45,000 people in the targeted communities. In order to build the capacity of communities in the operation and maintenance of the boreholes, 202 water point committees have been formed and trained for all the drilled and rehabilitated boreholes.

- To promote essential hygiene actions, a total of 651 people (including 51 District Water, Sanitation and Health Education members, 100 Community Champions and 500 members of Sanitation Action Groups) have been orientated on the Community Led Total Sanitation approach including promotion of essential hygiene actions. Hygiene promotion integrated with sanitation in targeted villages and chiefdoms has reached over 98,000 people.

- As part of increasing financial inclusion and economic empowerment of women, WFP supported the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) to form saving groups. The groups enable beneficiaries to save part of their incomes and to access loans. WFP supported the training of 221 (46 per cent women) district staff from the Ministry of Agriculture and MCDSS in the ‘Saving for Change’ Methodology. SUN II districts, through the roll-out trainings managed to train over 1,000 volunteers on Savings for Change, sensitize over 9,000 community members and smallholder farmers on Savings for Change and formed over 500 Savings for Change groups.

- Beneficiary registration has been completed in all the 17 districts. Out of an estimated population of 685,366 households, 544,170 households have been registered representing 79.4 percent of the target population. This disparity can be attributed to the following:
  » Creation of new districts within the old districts which reduced the Chipata, Lundazi and Solwezi populations
  » Low registration of beneficiaries in the Lusaka Urban (low density) areas

- Unavailability of potential beneficiaries in some rural areas due to farming activities (migration)

- Moving forward, the beneficiary datasets will be transposed into the Zambia Nutrition Management Information System that will be developed for implementing and tracking the convergence of interventions. New beneficiaries will be registered through the NSG volunteers in the communities, supported by Ward Nutrition Coordinating Committees.

Outcome 3:

Quality nutrition information is used by communities, government and partners for evidence-based decisions, action, and advocacy

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Outcome 4:

Sustained commitment by the Government and partners for accountable nutrition governance

- The District Nutrition Coordinating Committees (DNCCs) are in place and functional in all 17 districts, including in the new SUN II districts. All districts have held at least three meetings in 2021. Furthermore, Ward Nutrition Coordinating Committees (WNCCs) in the targeted wards have been formed and oriented. A total of 154 DNCC members and 1,266 WNCC members were oriented on the programme and its coordination structures. In addition, Zone Nutrition Coordinating Committees orientation have started in a few of the districts. To enhance effective coordination at district level, UNICEF supported the NFNC with the delivery of office equipment (computers, projectors, scanners, and printers) and furniture to the district coordinators’ offices. UNICEF is currently supporting NFNC to revise guidance on the composition of DNCCs to allow for greater accountability within existing district governance structures.
Spotlight on:
Volunteers strengthening service delivery in communities

Name: Clement Mubita
Position: Growth Monitoring and Promotion Volunteer at Shampande Urban Clinic in Choma

About my role:
“I monitor children aged between 6 months to 2 years using height, weight and mid upper arm circumference measurements. These measurements when checked against age tells us how well or poorly a child is growing. I also give nutritional health talks to all mothers and caregivers.”

What motivates me:
“Breaking the common misconception that my role is gender specific motivates me and keeps me going. People expect women as primary caregivers to have a keener interest in growth and development of their children, so they get surprised to see a man knowledgeable enough to give health talks that offer real solutions for a child growing poorly.”
Updates in brief

FAO constructs fish ponds in Mpika, Muchinga Province

The Ministry of Agriculture Extension System under SUN II in collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) is working with the lead farmers to scale up homestead food production, including for fish. The project aims to increase dietary diversification. To increase access to fish stock, FAO constructed 53 fishponds and has trained 158 extension officers in fish processing. In Kalabo, construction of a fishpond was completed in the Namatindi area involving 16 farmers. Concurrently, 122 fishponds have been rehabilitated and 55 constructed in Mpika. In Chipata, fish farming training was delivered to Kanyanja camp for 20 (80 per cent female) participants. The topics covered included site selection, pond preparation, pond construction, stocking, pond management and record keeping.

Linking communities to interventions through Nutrition Support Groups

Nutrition Support Groups are peer-peer support groups that deliver dedicated Social Behavioural Change lessons to beneficiary households and provide a platform to link SUN II households to other nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive structures, services and activities.

Since the master training of trainers that kicked off in May 2021, all district level NSG supervisor trainings have been completed except for Lusaka District which is finalising its training.

In total, 341 Nutrition Support Group supervisors and health facility focal persons have been trained to maintain linkages within Ministry of Health structures as the accountable ministry.

All Nutrition Support Group supplies for community level lesson delivery to SUN II beneficiaries through promoters and volunteers are ready for use at district level.
Review and finalisation of 2022 Annual Work Plan and Budget (18-20 November 2021)

Every year the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC) spearheads the development of multisectoral nutrition plans in the 42 Most Critical Days Programme Phase II districts. This provides an opportunity to align the programme’s priorities to support 2022 operational objectives in the sectors implementing nutrition specific and sensitive interventions.

This year’s review process was conducted over a 3-day period in Kabwe at a workshop aimed at addressing all the concerns and ensuring feedback is given to the districts and provinces at once.

The participants in the meeting included NFNC District Nutrition Support Coordinators from all 17 districts, NGO district coordinators, national representation from line ministries, NFNC and representation from WFP, FAO, WHO and UNICEF.

The workshop included presentations from districts, provinces and UN agencies on 2021 achievements, challenges and lessons learned. This included presentations and discussions on the importance of value for money and of using the invested funds as effectively as possible to secure significant progress against stunting and malnutrition. Thereafter, participants were placed in groups by district with national level staff rotating to give feedback on the draft district and provincial plans. Following review of the plans, a list of recommended activities for 2022 was drawn and the districts began revising their plans accordingly.
Field Visit in Focus –
Highlights of donor visits to Eastern and Western provinces

EU Visit to Chipata District

In October 2021, a team comprised of representatives from the UK embassy (Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office), Ministry of Health and UN agencies travelled to Western Province to observe and document interventions under various programmes that they support including SUN II.

In Namushakende village of Mongu District, they observed cooking demonstrations and interacted with the nutrition community-based drama group holding a Social and Behaviour Change Communication session in the community. They also visited some SUN II beneficiary gardens managed by women savings groups.

FCDO visit to Western Province

A little girl enjoying lunch prepared by caregivers known as Mpezeni Women’s Group

WFP supported by UNICEF implements food preservation and women empowerment activities in Chipata District

Mpenzeni Women’s Group visited the outreach site to demonstrate how to cook foods for children aged 6-24 months and for pregnant and lactating women.

Visit to nutrition gardens established by mothers who are also beneficiaries of the saving groups under the SUN II programme in Namushakende community

Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP) and IYCF counselling session during an outreach session in Namushakende.

(all photo credits go to ©EU/Zambia/2021)
Scaling Up Nutrition 
Partner Feature 

GIZ FANSER improving nutrition and WASH through Social and Behaviour Change Communications

Food and Nutrition Security Enhanced Resilience (FANSER) has a two-pronged focus on nutrition and WASH guiding its social and behaviour change communication activities. One priority seeks to increase the knowledge levels on food and nutrition and positively change attitudes while the other seeks to increase knowledge about hygiene, positively change attitudes and practices.

Behaviours play a critical role in achieving Nutrition and WASH indicators. They determine the actions that individuals take that can positively or negatively impact their nutrition and health status.

To enable its target audience to sustain and adopt positive behaviours, the FANSER project has incorporated several approaches that support positive learning and facilitate for behaviour change. Some of the activities include the use of communication products such as TV show “Let me tell you”, comic books, nutrition card games and radio shows.

**TV-Show “Let me tell you”** - is a TV series on various nutrition and agriculture topics. The different episodes in the show include introduction to the body, washing hands, vitamin A, Iron.

- The episode; washing hands was released and is available to the public on YouTube.
- Vitamin A and iron will be released in the early 2022.

**Radio and comic booklets** - The TV Show “Let me tell you” (washing hands, vitamin A and iron) was also put on radio dramas and comic booklets.

- All the episodes for the show will be translated into Bemba and Nyanja so that a larger target group can be reached.

**Nutrition Card Game** – this game depicts the various nutrients that are found in the different locally available foods. This is done to increase the knowledge levels on good nutrition through social behaviour change.

- **Next Steps:**
  - Roll out the game in core group trainings
  - Discussions between NFNC & GIZ on the use of the game in schools

**FANSER ROAD SHOWS:**

The roadshow was piloted in two project sites; 3 in Luapula and 3 in Eastern provinces. The objectives of the nutrition and WASH road shows is

- to create positively framed messages around WASH and nutrition
- Support playful learning of the target group in project areas

These pilot roadshows were supported by District Nutrition Coordinating Committees and the National Food and Nutrition Commission

They will be rolled out early next year to reach out to the intended target groups
For more information on SUN Phase II, visit: unicef.org/zambia/sun-phase-ii