SCALING UP NUTRITION PHASE II
NEWSLETTER

In this edition

SUN II UPDATES
Key developments in the last six months

FIELD VISIT IN FOCUS
Highlights of monitoring trips to North Western and Lusaka provinces

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Issue 4, July 2022
In 2022, the Government of Zambia, with support from United Nations agencies and cooperating partners, continued to accelerate the implementation of the SUN II programme at district level. With the reduced COVID-19 pandemic challenges and constraints during the last half of the year 2021, it became possible to gain momentum with implementation.

The dedicated focus to reach communities, households, and intended beneficiaries in an integrated manner as well as the Mid-Term Review of the SUN-II programme, conducted in March 2022, where the recommended actions were to improve service delivery and integration at community levels also made the programme see great achievement across sectoral activities the first half of 2022. The technical support from the United Nations partners and enhanced coordination at the district level also saw the programme achieve results across sectors.

The achievements scored show the programme’s increased understanding of multi-sectoral collaboration and coordinated approach which has led to increased momentum in programme implementation, sectoral ownership of the activities, all of which are crucial steps for effecting change in children’s nutrition and the sustainability of the programme.

Furthermore, 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 these key results for the SUN II programme in the first half of 2022.

With these remarks I am therefore pleased to share highlights of some of the progress made from January to June 2022 in this fourth issue of the Scaling Up Nutrition Phase 2 newsletter.

J.MOFU

Welcome remarks
Acting NFNC Executive Director – Mr Musonda J. Mofu

SUN II Beneficiary Groups

**1,000 Days Households:** These are households under the programme with adolescent girls, pregnant women, breastfeeding women and caretakers having children under 2 years of age, and women of reproductive age.

**Most Vulnerable 1,000 Days Households:** These are households under the programme with adolescent pregnancies, low-birth weight babies, under-weight pregnant women, and children with severe acute malnutrition.

SUN II aims to achieve four key results by 2023

- **Sustained practice of optimal nutrition behaviours amongst adolescents, pregnant women, mothers, and caregivers of children under two.**
- **Sustained demand for and use of agriculture, health and WASH interventions for adolescents, pregnant women, mothers, and caregivers of children under two and communities.**
- **Quality nutrition information is used by communities, government and partners for evidence-based decisions, action and advocacy.**
- **Sustained commitment by government and partners for accountable nutrition governance.**
**About SUN II**

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 the 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.

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**SUN II Progress Tracker (Jan- June 2022)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SUN Most Vulnerable Households</strong></th>
<th><strong>TARGETED BENEFICIARIES</strong></th>
<th><strong>RESULTS IN PROGRESS</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Includes PLW with MUAC &lt;23cm, low birth-weight child &lt;2.5kg, pregnant or breastfeeding adolescent girl</td>
<td>60,706 SUN most vulnerable households with homestead food production interventions</td>
<td>29,109*</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Livestock pass-on</td>
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<td>• Homestead gardens</td>
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<td>• Response to critical situations</td>
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<th><strong>SUN Agri Intense Households</strong></th>
<th><strong>SUN Agri Light Households</strong></th>
<th><strong>TARGETED BENEFICIARIES</strong></th>
<th><strong>RESULTS IN PROGRESS</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Increase year round production of nutritious food</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SUN Households, SUN Schools</strong></th>
<th><strong>TARGETED BENEFICIARIES</strong></th>
<th><strong>RESULTS IN PROGRESS</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Includes PLW and children under two</td>
<td>697,766 SUN households with health and nutrition interventions</td>
<td>403,685#</td>
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<td>• M-IYCF and care practices</td>
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<td>• Essential hygiene actions</td>
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<td>• Growth monitoring and promotion</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Production diversification and market access</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Promote/provide good nutrition and care practices</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Women of Reproductive Age</strong></th>
<th><strong>TARGETED BENEFICIARIES</strong></th>
<th><strong>RESULTS IN PROGRESS</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Includes PLW and children under two</td>
<td>120,598 WRA with Village Saving and Lending Association interventions</td>
<td>37,596</td>
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<td>• Community savings and lending groups</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>All Households (Rural &amp; Urban)</strong></th>
<th><strong>TARGETED BENEFICIARIES</strong></th>
<th><strong>RESULTS IN PROGRESS</strong></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Promote/facilitate access to water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
<td>1,000,000 people with WASH interventions</td>
<td>311,655</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Community-led total nutrition</td>
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<td>• Community-led total sanitation</td>
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<td>• Water access</td>
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Inspiring Stories from Eastern and North Western Province

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

Saving for change: an early start matters

Purity Makomero meets with other members of her savings group in the shelter of a local church in the heart of the community of Mulenga in north-western Zambia. The Tukwantakane (meaning ‘working together as one’) group meets every month. At 15, she is the youngest member of the group.

“I would like to buy more than just nice clothes and food. I would like to buy something bigger, like a bicycle,” says Purity, “even if it’s second-hand, which I can use to go to school for many years. That way, I can finish my education and become a nurse.”

The savings group Purity belongs to is also a Nutrition Support Group, serving the dual purpose of financial inclusion and promoting good nutrition under the Scaling Up Nutrition Phase 2 (SUN II) programme.

Hunger and malnutrition constitute real and present risks to children in Zambia, with stunting sitting at 35 per cent nationally. The SUN II programme targets vulnerable groups including pregnant and lactating women, children under 2 years of age, and adolescents like Purity with multiple interventions to reduce the drivers of stunting. All women from 15-49 years old are eligible to join savings groups like the one Purity is a part of.

Women make up more than 70 per cent of the agricultural labour force in Zambia and play a critical role in enhancing food security and nutrition, as they are usually primary caregivers. In most places, like Solwezi District, with a high prevalence of undernourishment and a stunting rate of 25.8 per cent, women farmers have significantly less access to land, information, finance, and agricultural inputs. This is where savings groups help break the cycle of malnutrition and stunting - by providing easy access to low-interest loans, and thereby empowering women both economically and socially. In Solwezi District, where Tukwantakane is located, 193 Saving for Change groups have been formed and 66 of these groups are currently saving.

Purity says she got the inspiration to become a nurse after the first meeting of her group. A lesson on ‘What Is Good Nutrition?’ was taught before they began saving. She says she has been pleasantly surprised at the skills and knowledge she has received as a participant.

“It might not seem like a big deal to some people to save a 50 kwacha ($3), but it makes me proud to know that I am saving for a good cause. It’s for my own future, I am learning how to be responsible with finances no matter how little and that you can never be too young to save,” says Purity.

The Tukwantakane Savings Group, formed in January 2022, has a membership of 25 breastfeeding mothers, pregnant women and adolescent girls. Most of the women and girls who were not saving before they joined the savings group became members for similar reasons: the perceived importance and benefits of the groups themselves, to save money, to learn how to grow their money, to improve their lives and to lessen food insecurity. The first meeting involved establishing the rules of the group; thereafter, they declared their monthly savings and each member was eligible to receive a loan.
At least half of the members took loans to buy and re-sell food and other items. Others mentioned using loan money for farming or gardening inputs, food, medicine, and education costs. Each member commits to save at least 50 kwacha per month and the savings cycle runs for 9 months, after which they will share out the money based on savings and interest accrued from loan repayments.

As she places her money into a blue bowl, she declares openly what the breakdown of her savings is this month:

“I was very shy, but the group is helping me feel more confident to speak in front of people because we have to declare loudly how much we are repaying and saving.”

This month, 8th-grader Purity saves another K50, bringing her total savings to K100. An additional K5 goes towards Tukwantakane’s social fund. Each time a member makes a deposit, a small portion is allocated to the social fund. Social funds can be accessed by members to cover emergency expenses such as funerals or medical costs.

Coming from a cultural environment that often teaches that children must be seen and not heard, Purity finds it empowering to belong to a group where her voice matters, and her aspirational ideas for empowerment of vulnerable women and girls can be shared.

“I feel lucky to that I am learning how to create a savings plan at a young age, and I look forward to developing other skills like becoming a promoter of good nutrition like some of the other members who have received that training,” Purity says. Purity has a single mother who trades in tomatoes and other agricultural produce, like many of the women in Tukwantakane, and belongs to a savings group of her own.

As a Nutrition Support Group, Tukwantakane savings group also promotes good maternal, infant, and young child feeding practices to its members by providing them with nutrition information. The right messages help inform the members to make choices with their savings, such as diversifying their diets through the crops they choose to invest in for consumption or as cash crops.

With seven months of saving left to go, Purity is hopeful of three things – that she will buy a bicycle in the very near future, that she will become a community champion promoting good nutrition, and that focusing on her education will unlock the potential in her to become a nurse.

The Government, with technical support from the World Food Programme, Care and iDE, through SUN II, has so far trained over 1,400 animators in Saving for Change, who have sensitized over 9,000 community members of whom 86 per cent are women. There are currently 502 Saving for Change groups.
Good agricultural practices increasing household income in rural communities

Zambia’s rural farmers, particularly women, have limited access to agricultural services and modern technologies needed to increase production and incomes. In Mutengukeni agricultural camp of Chipata District, where a group of farmers have been trained on good agricultural practices under the Scaling up Nutrition Phase 2 programme (SUN II), the situation was no different before they were trained. They lacked improved seed varieties that delivered higher yields, have greater nutritional value, and have a higher tolerance to drought, floods, and disease. Through the programme, they have been introduced to conservation farming methods such as the use of improved seed and promotion of diverse crop production for improved and increased food production, dietary diversification and food enrichment that improve diet quality, combat nutrient deficiencies, and boost overall nutrition to reduce stunting.

“It was disheartening to pull very lean resources together to buy seeds and plant, but yield very little because of poor quality seed,” says Amai (Mrs). Mwanza, a lead farmer at the camp, who mentors apprentice farmers using skills and knowledge she has acquired through trainings. “Imagine putting everything you’ve got into farming inputs and after the harvest season, there is still hunger in your home. That was our reality before this programme came.”

Poor knowledge of improved production practices led many area farmers to maintain unsustainable traditional practices that degraded the soil in their fields, further limiting the productive potential of their land. They would utilize ever-larger pieces of land, with the hope that a bigger field will equal bigger yields – and more income after selling their produce.

“It was painful to buy fertilizer because of the large areas that needed to be covered. We had no knowledge of sustainable farming practices then, so the farming methods we were using would ruin our own natural resources. It’s no wonder we eventually stopped getting much of it,” says lead farmer Dominic Tembo.

Through programming supported by FAO under SUN II, officers at Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries are working to expand access to quality agricultural advice, while introducing more sustainable production and post-harvest practices to improve the quality, quantity, and safety of foods for 1,000 days households. These are households with adolescent girls, pregnant women, breastfeeding women, women and caregivers having children under 2 years of age, and women of reproductive age.
Sustainable production practices, including conservation agriculture, offer rural households the chance to sustain and improve yields through protection and optimal use of natural resources. This means both using less space for fields and utilizing crop rotation practices. During training, agricultural officers encourage the farmers to grow diverse and nutrient-dense crops such as cowpeas, mixed beans, and vitamin-A enriched maize.

“We are very happy with the results we are seeing so far after reducing the size of our fields and changing crops from the maize we have always grown to the beans that is doing so well,” says Mwanza. “These new practices we have learned have helped us reduce labour significantly and the soil is adapting very well to the crop rotation.”

The farmers have also been trained on low-cost storage technologies and the preservation and consumption of nutritious foods. Simple improvements on traditional storage practices are helping them reduce post-harvest losses due to mould or insects and – rather than resort to immediate sale – they can now store crops for household consumption or sale when profitability is higher. Combined with the food preservation skills they have gathered; they are able to dry seasonal vegetables and fruit and sell them long after the season has ended.

“We are always happy to see the excitement on the faces of out-of-towners when they see our dried vegetables that are out of season countrywide. Our secret is simply steaming them, adding a little salt, and drying them out in the sun,” says Maggie Mwanza. “It’s also how we keep our babies looking so healthy. We pound the dried vegetables or fruits and add to their maize-meal porridge to add more nutritional value.”

SUN Phase II will strengthen access to input and output markets, as well as financial services, to support stronger yields and increased incomes. Working in collaboration, FAO and WFP have supported over 400 demonstration sites that have been set up as community centres of excellence to showcase appropriate utilization of post-harvest technology, provide on-the-spot training to small-scale farmers, and provide complementary agricultural support through the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. Over 13,000 farmers have been oriented in the adoption of innovative, food production technologies to promote production and consumption of diverse, nutrient-rich vegetables, and crops across Zambia.
Comprised of 25 members with Ms. Ziwa at the helm, the group promotes the preservation and consumption of diversified, nutritious food through cooking demonstrations to community gatherings. A colourful display of food showcases the best of locally grown food and captures three essential food groups to help reduce malnutrition and stunting. These are energy-giving foods such as corn, body building foods that include soy and meat and protective foods represented by the assorted spread of leafy green vegetables.

“We take pride in sharing knowledge about nutrition and teaching both men and women alike as caregivers on how they can be deliberate about preparing meals that have something from each food group,” says women’s group chairperson Tomaida Ziwa.

Based in Nsingo ward of Chipata District, in the scenic and hilly Eastern province of Zambia, the Mpezeni Women’s group has been functional for over 20 years and now includes men as part of its membership.

Comprised of 25 members with Ms. Ziwa at the helm, the group promotes the preservation and consumption of diversified, nutritious food through cooking demonstrations. Their aim is to ensure that healthy and nutritious cooking is practiced in homes – primarily homes with pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under 2 years, but they also teach caregivers such as fathers, grandmothers, and siblings to promote nutritional wellbeing of not only the child and mother, but the entire household.

“It is encouraging to see how many women have been keen to learn and utilize the knowledge about nutrition in their homes. There has been tremendous improvement in the physical appearance of our children ever since we started cooking demonstrations because we are promoting the use of food that is readily available locally,” says Monica Tembo, a longstanding member of the group.
Cooking demonstration sessions are just some of the many activities taking place under the Scaling up Nutrition Phase 2 (SUN II) programme, with the aim to advance healthy feeding practices in communities. Other activities such as food production, post-harvest loss management, preservation and storage are implemented through training conducted by Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Food and Fisheries with technical support from FAO and WFP. The Mpezeni Women’s group has utilized the trainings and inputs received, such as orange maize seed, to demonstrate food preparation and promote food preservation to increase availability, access, quality, and safety of nutritious foods in the homes of their neighbors and community members.

“When our families are healthy, it frees us up to go about our business and be productive. We don’t have to stay home looking after sickly children because they are eating well now,” says group member Hellen Jere. “We are free to attend trainings and use the skills acquired to tend to our fields and manage our harvest better so that we can sell our produce to also contribute to household income.”

Under SUN II, over 800 small-scale farmers have been trained on improved agricultural practices while over 13,000 households have been trained on Post Harvest Management to reduce losses, including training on food preservation for improved food security. The food preservation methods are safe and ensure that vital nutrients of the food are retained.

“Almost all of us have backyard gardens, but before the programme we did not know how to preserve our vegetables to ensure a consistent supply of food high in nutritional value, even when they are out of season,” says Ziwa. “I was very excited to learn low-cost ways of preservation of food such as solar drying of vegetables and in turn teaching others how they can do the same through our activities as a group.”

The group also links with other SUN II interventions, such as Savings and Lending Groups. These groups empower women with cash through the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services. They are equipped with information that helps them use some of the funds acquired for the purchase of food that cannot be accessed through local production, farming inputs and capital for business. With access to these funds, the Mpezeni Women’s Group produces palm oil and makes their own soap, which they both sell and use to promote good hygiene and sanitation practices in the community. Through these linkages and integration of activities, the Mpezeni Women’s group is contributing to efforts to reduce stunting.

In Chipata, about 33.1 per cent of children are stunted. The overall stunting prevalence rate in Zambia is at 35 per cent. The SUN II programme ensures good coordination at the community level between line ministries, district nutrition offices, health workers, traditional leaders, community volunteers, and care or nutrition support groups. They all play a significant role in ensuring community action towards improving the nutritional status of children under 2 years is achieved.
Impact brief of the past six months (Jan-June 2022)

KEY PROGRESS

NUTRITION SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS

- **403,685** women and children from 1000-days households (target: 697,766) were reached counselling and promotion activities at facilities and outreach.

- **505,025** children aged 6-59 months screened using MUAC.

- **865** health workers trained on BFHI. **26** hospitals (target: 476) in Lusaka implementing BFHI.

- **5,670** SAM children aged 6-59 months admitted and treated in OTP (target of 30,470).

- **82,342** thousand-days households (target: 697,766) reached with lessons by **8237** NSG volunteers.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

- **22,384** households (cumulatively 111,920 against a target of 1,000,000 people) gaining access to basic sanitation services and using basic hand washing facilities.

- **270** communities were verified open defecation free (ODF). **3,598** SAGs were trained in sanitation and hygiene promotion and data management.

- **78,250** people (target: 300,000) in the targeted communities accessed improved water services.

- **985** gender-balanced water point committees were trained. **392** area pump minders were trained.

- **Hygiene promotion benefitted 121,485** people (target: 1,000,000).

- **140** new boreholes equipped with handpumps, and **67** boreholes have been drilled, pending equipping with handpumps. **183** existing non-functional boreholes were rehabilitated.

- **25,615** new sanitation users benefitted from construction/upgrading **5,123** HH latrines.

- **140** new boreholes equipped with handpumps, and **67** boreholes have been drilled, pending equipping with handpumps. **183** existing non-functional boreholes were rehabilitated.
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES

6,000 thousand-days households (target: 15,000) received improved village chickens under the pass on the gift program

93 Centres of Excellence (target: 220) and 241 fishponds benefitting 3,046 households

64,093 farmers (target: 143,077) have been trained and engaged in diverse agriculture production

12,777 households (target: 15,000) have been engaged in short cycle livestock production

7,211 SUN households (target: 15,000) received nutrient-rich inputs

42,962 targeted 1000-days households (target: 143,077) trained on post harvest management, food preservation and processing

8,444 households (target: 15,000) have been directly trained on utilization of non-wood forest products

12,192 households are currently growing moringa

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN

2,894 savings groups members (among them women) accessed loans totaling ZMW 12,345,353 (US$ 726,200), enabling them to engage in various profitable business ventures

1,835 savings groups have so far saved a total of ZMW 7,061,579 (US$ 415,387), enabling members to access loans and invest in small businesses and agricultural-related activities

1,313 (58% women) animators/volunteers were trained on “Savings for Change”. 1,835 savings groups have been formed, with a total membership of 37,596 members, among them 32,121 women of reproductive age

327 (52% women) government staff from the MoA and MCDSS in the ‘Saving for Change’ methodology. These included 93 district officers and 234 camp extension officers from the two ministries

1,835 saving groups have so far saved a total of ZMW 7,061,579 (US$ 415,387), enabling members to access loans and invest in small businesses and agricultural-related activities

SOCIAL BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

SBCC STRATEGY AND TOOLKIT

THEIR BRAIN IS GROWING EVERYDAY

MUM’S MILK IS ALL THEY NEED

0 - 6 MONTHS

7 - 9 MONTHS

Tikonde Save

EYE CONTACT BUILDS TRUST

BABIES NEED LOVE AND ATTENTION
UN Partner Feature
FAO technical support accelerating agricultural interventions in SUN II districts

Mpika District Pilots Production of High Protein Fodder for Poultry Feeding Using Hydroponics
To ensure sustainability of interventions under the SUN II program, FAO is supporting Hydroponics vegetable and fodder production, and integrated aquaculture-agriculture food production systems for poultry and vegetables in the context of climate change, feed cost reduction and maximizing space for production and yields.

Mpika districts carried out training on the production of high protein fodder from legumes using hydroponics. This training accompanied the distribution of Village Chickens to the Women beneficiaries under the pass-on-the-gift scheme under the SUN II program. The training will be rolled out to the rest of the SUN II districts in Muchinga (Isoka and Chinsali), and eventually to the remaining 12 districts in the country.

Increased access to poultry stock and services for improved poultry management and consumption of 15,000 households.
More than 6,000 SUN II households received improved village chickens under the pass on the gift program. These chickens are high yielding laying two eggs every 36 hours on average and the program has facilitated the acquisition of incubators for hatching the eggs.

Keyhole Gardening – The perfect vegetable garden within the Homestead
“Our vegetables are not only organically grown, but also clean as the animals do not pee on them because the garden is raised,” said the leader farmer Mrs Rister in Hamapende village, in Monze with reference to the keyhole garden. FAO is promoting diversified home production of nutritious foods. To enhance consumption of nutrient-dense vegetables.

“Our vegetables are not only organically grown, but also clean as the animals do not pee on them because the garden is raised,” Rister-lead farmer.
The Mid-Term Review covered the second year of implementation of the joint SUN II programme and the end of project completion review of the SNV project following 2 and a half years of implementation. Some key highlights of the review were:

- After a decade of multi-sectoral programming under the SUN movement, nutrition is no longer a silent issue in Zambia and the sector is no longer driven by a small group of stakeholders but has developed into a broad-based movement. This is a significant impact.

- Furthermore, the implementation of nutrition interventions in Zambia, no longer sits within the sole domain of the health sector. This is also an achievement which should not be underestimated.

- Achieving effective coordination however, at a multi-sectoral level is a long and complex change process as there are many causes of stunting and factors that impact nutrition outcomes. There is still work to be done to build on the momentum around nutrition programming in Zambia and translate it into long-term impact.

- Despite this Mid-Term review, it must be emphasized that the programme is not at mid-term stage yet. While most of the structures to deliver results and impact at the central and district level are established, the pace of implementation has been constrained by a complex delivery model and mechanism, cumbersome contracting processes as well as human and organizational capacity weaknesses.

On top of this, the COVID-19 pandemic created disruptions to the programme and its enabling environment. Despite these challenges, the National Food and nutrition commission continues to spearhead constructive partnerships based on trust, transparency, and teamwork at all levels.

Two districts were selected for the Mid-Term Review field mission to catch the programme in action; these were Solwezi District (28 February to 3 March) in North Western Province and Chongwe District (10 March) in Lusaka Province. The delegation to Solwezi was comprised of teams from FCDO, KfW, UN partners, Implementing Partners and the National Scaling Up Nutrition Mid-Term Review (March 2022)

Food and Nutrition commission.

In Chongwe District, the delegation observed Growth Monitoring and Promotion under the programme and how it has improved service delivery and interacted with members of Nutrition Support Groups. They also visited a centre of excellence for interaction with lead farmers who showcased diversified crop production and met with a savings group at the same facility where various interventions converge. The tour concluded on a WASH note with a visit to sanitation demonstration facilities at Kapete School where the team interacted with the school WASH committee and lastly, a stop at a rehabilitated borehole.

In Solwezi District, the team engaged with several communities on their involvement in SUN II agriculture activities such as fishpond construction and they also interacted with Nutrition Support Group and Savings groups members in Kapingimpanga ward. In Kamalamba ward, they witnessed a chicken pass-on scheme and visited a Centre of Excellence, a shared facility for best agricultural practices under the programme.
L-R: Sanitation demo site at Kapete Primary School, delegation in a soya bean field at centre of excellence in Chongwe District ©UNICEF/Zambia/2022/Kawanu

L-R: Meeting a nutrition support group that has constructed a fishpond, and a lead and follower farmers growing vitamin A rich orange maize.

Delegation at a water point in Solwezi District ©UNICEF/Zambia/2022/Kawanu

Ready to Use Therapeutic food at a rural health post.
Scaling Up Nutrition
Partner Feature

GIZ enhancing dietary diversity by promoting the production and consumption of OFSPs through community participation

The Food and Nutrition Security Enhanced Resilience (FANSER) Project are implementing and promoting the production and consumption of Orange Fleshed Sweet Potatoes (OFSP) in Luapula and Eastern provinces under the MDCP II interventions. As it is known, vitamin A deficiency is widespread among women of reproductive age and children. Orange Fleshed Sweet Potatoes are rich in Vitamin A and play a critical role in the body, contributing to the reduction of malnutrition which is quite common among women of reproductive age and children under two years in the following ways: OFSP is rich in beta-carotene, an excellent source of Vitamin A. They help to boost the immune system thereby preventing various diseases and improving the health of the eyes for good sight. They are also high in fiber and therefore help improve the digestion system.

FANSER project has partnered with the Zambia Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI) – Msekera station to promote the production and consumption of Orange Fleshed Sweet Potatoes (OFSPs) among the targeted 20,000 project Beneficiary Households in Katete and Petauke districts within Zambia. A small survey was done which included the sensory evaluation. In which community members tasted 5 OFSP varieties to determine the individual’s best preferences in terms of taste, fibre and starch content, colour appearance and sweetness.

In addition, the study also looked at the performance in the field in terms of yield, maturity, leaf vegetation as well as pest and disease resistance of the roots. The study will help experts from the Zambia Agriculture Research Institutes (ZARI) in analyzing which OFSP variety is most preferred by the community members. The most preferred OFSP variety will then be scaled up and promoted by the GIZ FANSER project through training Beneficiary Households and community awareness meetings and radio discussions approaches on the importance of producing and consuming OFSPs.
For more information on SUN Phase II, visit: unicef.org/zambia/sun-phase-ii