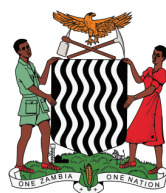




2023 ANNUAL REPORT

ZAMBIA SUN TA PROJECT



USAID Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance Project



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Karen Doll
USAID SUN TA
Chief of Party

Message from Chief of Party

It's that time again to share with you the wonderful work we are doing with and for the women and children of Zambia.

Our work focuses on helping the Government of Zambia implement the First 1,000 Most Critical Days Program that seeks to reduce malnutrition in children under two.

In 2023, like we have done before, we helped thousands of households produce diverse, nutritious foods through our work with the Ministry of Agriculture and the vast network of Lead Farmers within communities.

Our agenda of expanding access to finance saw over 1,500 new savings groups formed, providing a reliable source of capital for small businesses.

Through our innovative approach of expanding coverage of nutrition services, we brought into the fold over 2,300 new communities that had previously not benefitted from the project and linked them to various other services.

Nearly 760 communities now have a new sanitation status after they were certified open defecation free through a collective effort of government, traditional, religious, community and project leadership.

We delivered clean and safe water to over 94,000 people through 230 rehabilitated boreholes and 67 new ones, with more to come.

We thank our government partners for working with us to deliver these achievements in 2023.

Special thanks to USAID for the financial and technical support that brought these activities to light.

About USAID SUN TA Project

The USAID Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance (SUN TA) is a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Its purpose is to support the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) in implementing the First 1000 Most Critical Days Program (MCDP II). This program aims to reduce malnutrition among children under the age of two. The program is being implemented by various Government ministries, with the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC) serving as the coordinating body for all stakeholders.

Project Goal

Contribute to the reduction of stunting among children under two years of age in Zambia.

Main Partner

Government of the Republic of Zambia

Subcontractor

TechnoServe

Geographical Coverage

Central Province

Mumbwa, Chibombo, Kabwe and Kapiri Mposhi

Copperbelt Province

Ndola and Kitwe

Northern Province

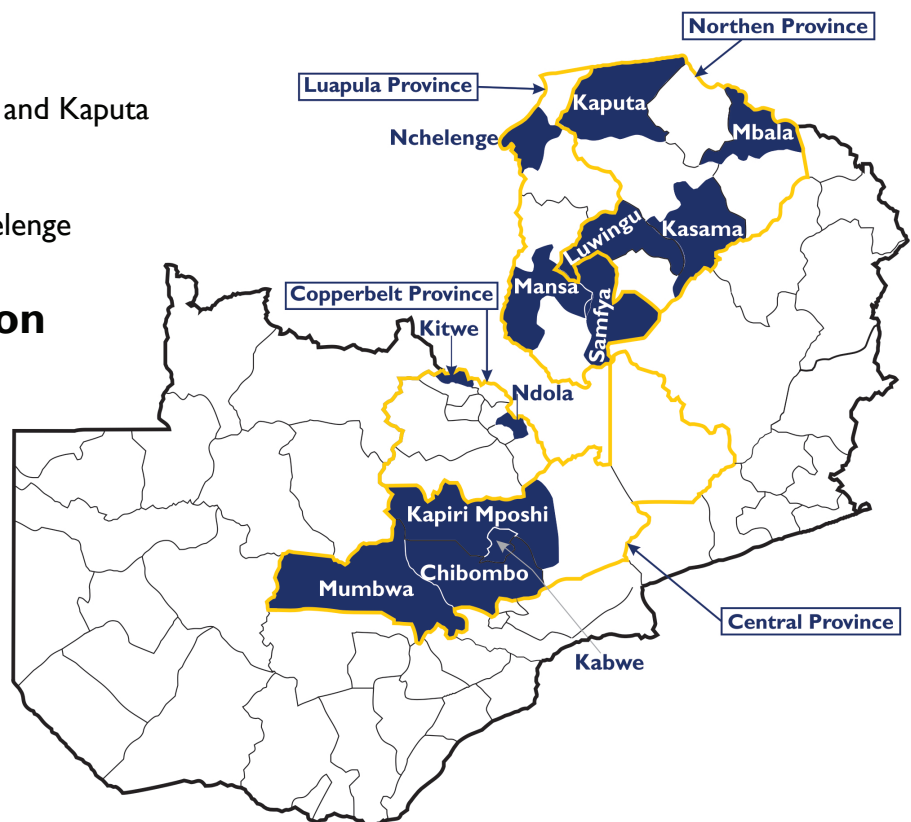
Kasama, Mbala, Luwingu and Kaputa

Luapula Province

Mansa, Samfya and Nchelenge

Project Duration

2019 - 2024



PROJECT PILLARS

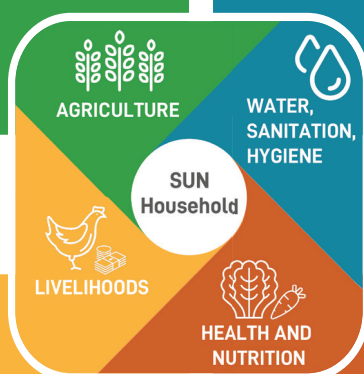
The USAID SUN TA Project supports the Government of Zambia to implement a variety of activities aimed at impacting the household and contribute to a reduction in stunting.

AGRICULTURE

The Agriculture component aims to increase access to safe, diverse and nutritious food through nutrition-sensitive agriculture. The project works with the ministries of Agriculture, and Livestock and Fisheries to increase and diversify food production through improved agronomical practices.

WATER, SANITATION, HYGIENE (WASH)

Improving sanitation and hygiene and increasing access to safe and clean water is key to preventing diarrheal diseases. USAID SUN TA works with various Government departments and community structures to improve sanitation and hygiene and deliver clean and safe water to communities and households.



LIVELIHOODS

The project supports the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services to increase access to affordable finance and diversify livelihoods through entrepreneurship.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

The Health and Nutrition component seeks to improve infant and young feeding (IYCF), caring practices, and maternal and adolescent nutrition. The project supports the Ministry of Health to deliver interventions such as antenatal care, early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding, and systems strengthening for Iron, Folate and vitamin A supplementation by targeting pregnant, breastfeeding women, teenage pregnant adolescents, and children under two years of age.

YEAR IN NUMBERS



31,000+ women established own homestead gardens to increase consumption and sale of diverse, nutritious foods

127,000+ women and children benefitted from maternal and child health services



89,000 people provided with family planning services

\$623,813 recorded in agriculture-related finance



K1.1 million recorded in chicken sales among farmers

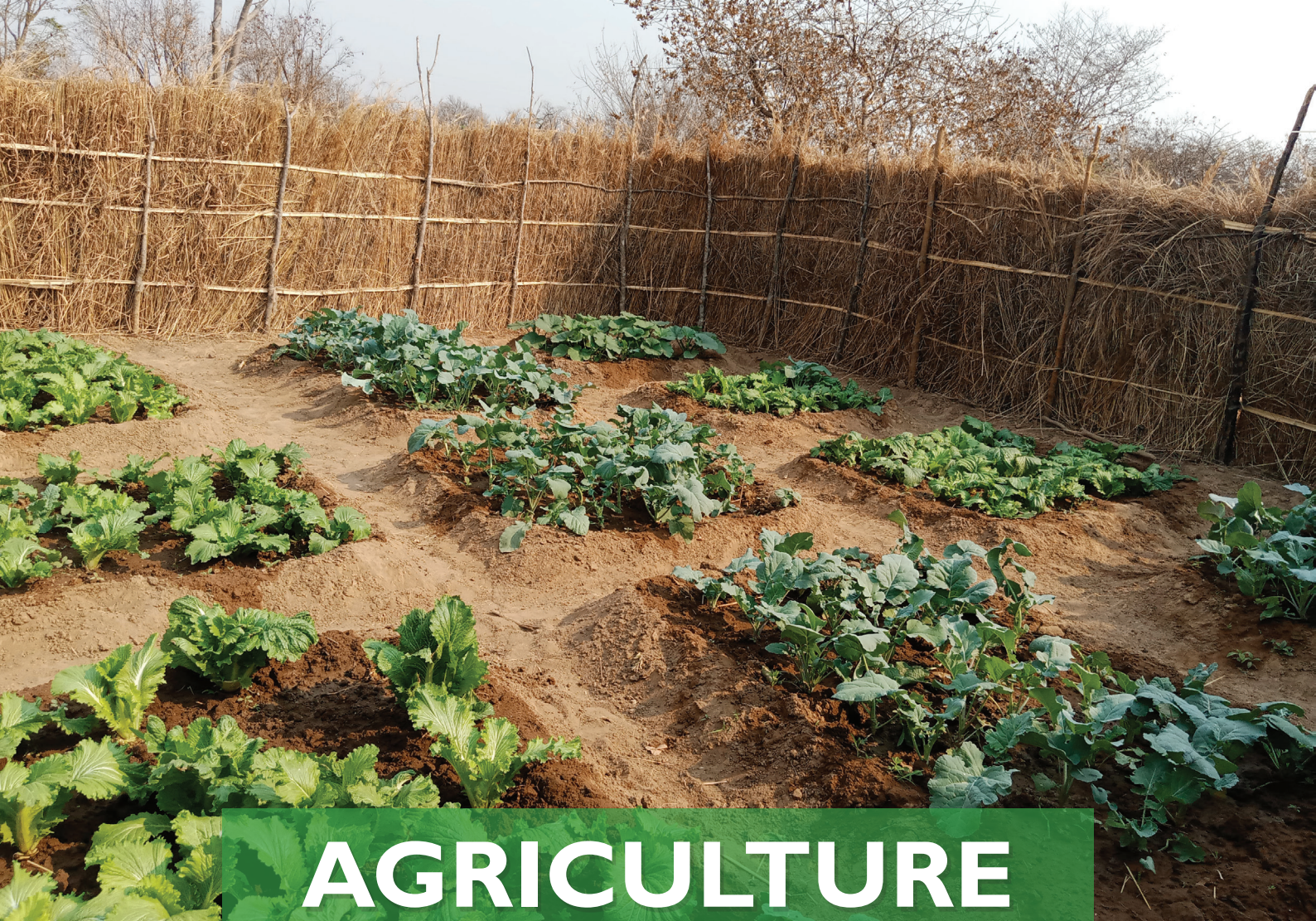
K8.8 million saved by 1500+ new savings groups formed



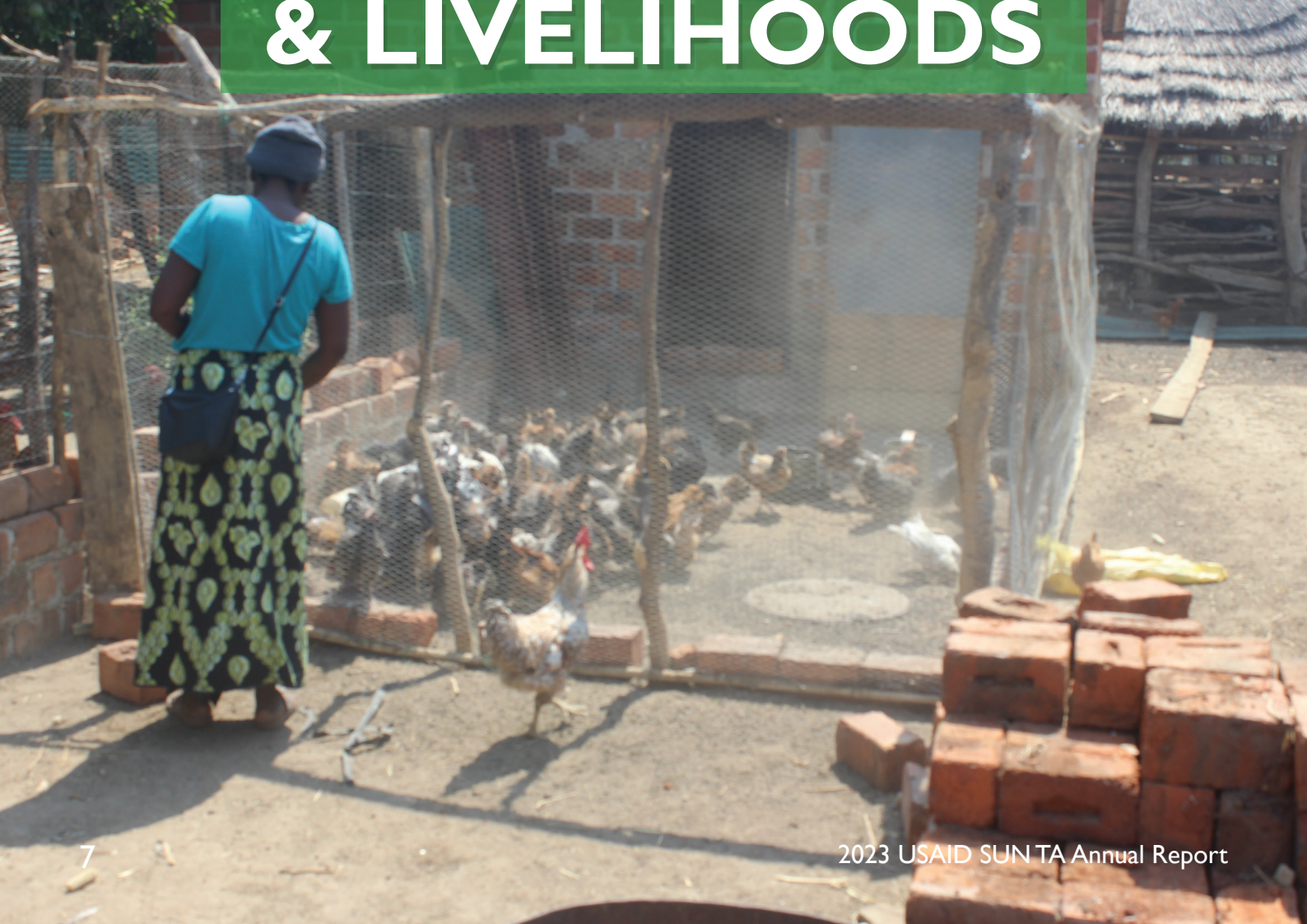
94,000+ people accessing clean water from 297 new and rehabilitated boreholes

759 communities declared open defecation free, thus improved sanitation and hygiene





AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOODS



Agriculture and Livelihoods

The Agriculture and Livelihoods component seeks to increase access to safe and nutritious food through nutrition-sensitive agriculture and empower households to increase access to finance and entrepreneurship opportunities. We work with the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, and Ministry of Community Development and Social Services to deliver these activities.

Improved Agriculture Management Practices

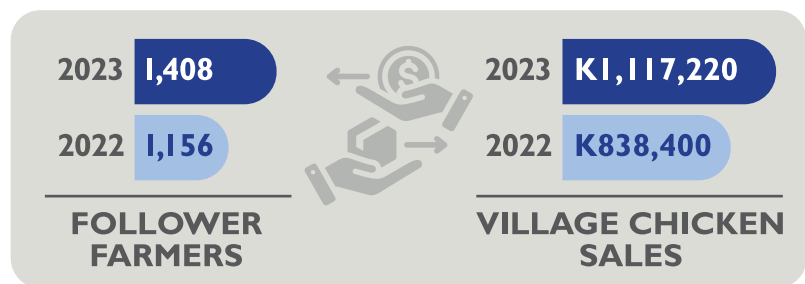
Farmers applying improved agriculture management practices or technologies (use of certified seed, inoculant, minimum tillage, integrated pest management, mulching, crop rotation, intercropping) increased from 56,024 in 2022 to 65,130 in 2023. Use of these practices is key to increasing production and productivity. With the project's support, 31,726 women established homestead gardens providing fresh, diverse and nutritious foods.

Agriculture Financing

The value of agriculture-related financing farmers accessed through private sector reached \$623,813 against the annual target of \$500,000, helping farmers to diversify their enterprises, increase production and strengthen livelihoods resilience.

Village Chicken Value Chain

Farmers supported by the project have become major suppliers of chickens to some institutions, even as they use the income to expand their businesses and improve their livelihoods as the following examples demonstrate:



Luwingu District: Demo farmer Prisca Mwansa earned K142,500 from supplying 1500 point-of-lay village chickens to the neighbouring Lupososhi District Community Development and Social Services Department. Three farmers supported by Prisca Mwansa supplied 400 point-of-lay chickens to Mwense District valued at K32,000.

Nchelenge District: Nine farmers sold 2,499 chickens worth K281,565 to World Vision, Tralard Project and to the open market.

Kitwe District: Edith Makwembo joined SUN TA Project activities in 2022. She bought her first 50 birds at K15 in August 2022 and has since multiplied them to over 100. "The chickens have really improved our diet at home. We have fresh eggs every day and we eat meat when we want to."

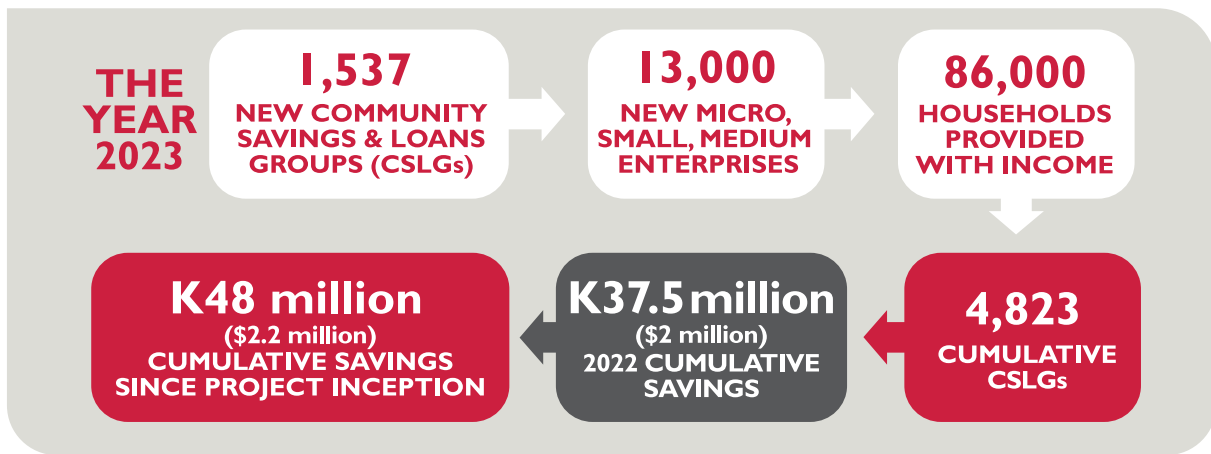
Chibombo District: Mable Chambwe previously kept chickens as a pastime, but when the project identified and trained her in livestock production, she increased her stock from a paltry six to 250. She now supplies 10 trays of eggs to a nearby local shop every week, earning herself a guaranteed income. Using money from her savings and sales from chickens, eggs and vegetables, Mable bought a piece of land where she and her husband plan to build a house to rent out.

Mable Chambwe from Chibombo District





Savings Groups



Sharing The Money

Savings groups continued sharing the benefits of their efforts as 360 of them shared K11,573,595 (\$538,307) among 6,746 members compared to 192 CSLGs with a membership of 4,734 who shared out K8,622,764 (\$455,493) in 2022.

The share-outs are largely timed around the rain season to enable members purchase farming inputs such as seed, equipment and pay for farm labour. The money is also used for household use and reinvestment into their businesses.





“ I received K7,450 which I have used to boost my grocery business and invest in farming so I can have enough food. My three children now eat a variety of nutrient rich food and every time I go for the under-5 clinic my child’s weight is always improving.”

Memory Chibwe, member of Tubombeshe CSLG in Nchelenge

Donica Bwalya of Kaputa was introduced to the CSLG by her health promoter. She joined a CSLG and after share-out, she bought a solar lighting system for her home.

“ I never knew that my house could have power, I thought this was only for people in town. Thanks to the savings group which has taught us to be disciplined and invest in the right things to improve our lives.”



NUTRITION & HEALTH





Nutrition and Health

This pillar supports the Ministry of Health to lead activities to improve the health of mothers and children and integrate family planning and early childhood development activities.

Delivering Nutrition Services

The project expanded coverage by reaching previously unreached communities with nutrition services. This resulted in delivery of nutrition services to 127,846 in 2,625 communities across 413 health facility catchments in 13 districts. Activities included health and nutrition talks, cooking demonstrations, social and behavior change messages on improved childcare practices such as essential hygiene behaviours; importance of exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months, complementary feeding, and linking mothers to agriculture and livelihoods activities.

Family Planning Services

Through trained community-based distributors, the project provided various family planning services to 89,833 people. Family planning has a direct impact on nutrition and leads to better outcomes for both mothers and babies. By providing family planning services within communities, clients no longer have to cover long distances to health centres.

Early Childhood and Development (ECD)

ECD activities continued at the community level, with 1,463 trained Community-Based Volunteers (CBVs) working in 349 established ECD corners. ECD plays a crucial role in child growth, providing opportunities for communication and play between children and their mothers.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

We work with our government partners in the ministries of Water Development and Sanitation, Local Government, and Health to deliver clean and safe water and improve household and community sanitation and hygiene.

759 OPEN DEFECTION FREE (ODF) COMMUNITIES

Promoting Hygiene in Communities

Our efforts to improve sanitation resulted in 759 communities across 12 districts achieving Open Defecation Free (ODF) certification using the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach. This contributed to 559,280 people gaining access to basic sanitation facilities. All the households in these areas now have toilets for safe disposal of human waste, and handwashing stations to promote hand hygiene. The project has surpassed its target of 2,400 by achieving 2,401 communities ahead of August 2024. These successes were a result of mass mobilization of communities, close monitoring and verification, high-quality technical support from community structures and involvement of traditional leaders.



559,280 PEOPLE ACCESS SANITATION FACILITIES

2,401 COMMUNITIES WITH TOILETS & HAND WASHING STATIONS

Delivering Clean and Safe Water

The project continued to increase access to clean safe water to communities. In the year, 94,629 people were served through 297 new and rehabilitated boreholes. Further, works on a solar-powered water reticulation scheme in Bwembya community, Kasama District, advanced and is expected to be handed over by June 2024 to serve over 2,300 people.

Repair and Maintenance of Boreholes

Area Pump Menders (APMs) trained by the project repaired and maintained 287 water points in all 13 districts, benefiting 104,841 people with access to safe water supply.

Water Quality Testing

Bi-annual and annual water quality monitoring was conducted on 502 rehabilitated and new boreholes in accordance with the project's Water Quality Assurance Plan (WQAP).



“ I am very grateful to SUN TA for bringing water closer to us. It was not easy for pregnant women to walk long distances to fetch water, but now we can access water nearby. *Memory Kalwa, Chaansa village, Kaputa District* ”



CROSSCUTTING ACTIVITIES



Crosscutting Activities

The project hosted and participated in several activities across sectors.

Launch of USAID/Zambia Water Country Plan

In July, the project hosted the launch of the USAID/Zambia High-Priority Water Country Plan, through which the U.S. government seeks to provide increased support to the water and sanitation sector, benefiting approximately 1.5 million Zambians. In 2022, Zambia was selected as one of the 22 countries globally to receive increased support under the U.S. Government's Global Water Strategy 2022-2027. The launch was held at Ngala village in Chibombo District, where the project recently constructed a new borehole now supplying clean and safe water to the community. USAID/Zambia Mission Director, Peter Wiebler and Minister of Water Development and Sanitation Mike Mposha graced the event and reaffirmed their government's commitment to improving the water and sanitation situation in Zambia.



USAID/Zambia Mission Director, Peter Wiebler

National Nutrition Conference

The project helped organise and participated in the 2023 National Nutrition Conference held in September in Lusaka. Minister of Health, Sylvia Masebo was Guest of Honour and outlined the Government measures to address the 'triple burden of malnutrition' that includes undernutrition, overnutrition (obesity) and micronutrient deficiency.

USAID/Zambia Feed the Future Coordinator David Howlett spoke on behalf of all cooperating partners, assuring the Zambian government of their collective support in tackling all forms of malnutrition.

The conference brought together Government officials, implementing partners, cooperating partners and academia. During the conference, USAID SUN TA shared its approaches to expanding coverage of nutrition services.



Peter Makata, a project beneficiary from Chibombo, attending to visitors at the Agritech



AgriTech Expo 2023

The project participated in the annual AgriTech Expo which brings together hundreds of commercial and social development organizations showcasing their activities in the agriculture sector. Participating for the first time, USAID mobilized all its projects under the Economic Development Unit to exhibit their activities, providing an opportunity to the public to appreciate the support provided by the U.S. government. Project staff and community-based volunteers interacted with members of the public and explained the project's work.

The project also participated in and supported several other events and commemorations such as:

- Child Health Week
- World Breastfeeding Week
- World Water Day
- Global Handwashing Day
- World Toilet Day
- World Nutrition Day
- World Food Day
- Multistakeholder Nutrition Planning and Budgeting Meeting
- Nutrition Cooperating Partners' Meetings
- District and Provincial Agriculture Shows
- Various consultative and planning meetings with Government and partners.





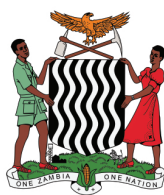
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