



USAID/Zambia ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCALING UP NUTRITION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (SUN TA)

Malnutrition and stunting impair growth and development in children as a result of poor nutrition, repeated infection, and inadequate psychosocial stimulation. Affecting 35 percent of Zambian children under age 5, stunting can cause poor cognition and educational performance along with other harmful lifelong effects. The USAID Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance (SUN TA) activity works to ensure that more of Zambia's children grow up healthy, strong, and capable. Zambia is also a member of the global network to end malnutrition. The network focuses on improving nutrition and quality of life for children.

- **Life of Project:** February 2019 - February 2026
- **Geographic Focus:** Central, Copperbelt, Northern, and Luapula Provinces
- **Partner:** DAI Global, LLC.
- **Chief of Party:** Karen Doll
- **Total USAID Funding:** \$71.7 million
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The SUN TA project is helping Zambia accelerate progress toward improved nutrition and implementation of the Zambian government's Most Critical Days Program (MCDP II). This integrated activity, working hand in hand with the National Food and Nutrition Commission and other donors, provides needs-based nutrition technical capacity strengthening and focuses on reducing stunting by two percent per year in select districts across Zambia.

SUN TA supports efforts across multiple ministries to provide coordinated and impactful nutrition programs at the household level. The project works with cross-sectoral coordinating committees at the provincial, district, and ward levels to identify nutrition challenges, identify gaps in programming, prioritize and develop approaches to address those gaps, and provide technical support to create long-lasting solutions to improve nutrition that can be replicated across the country.

The partner project, SUN Learning and Evaluation (SUN LE), works with the Zambian government, SUN TA, and other donors, to measure progress in improving nutrition and conduct special studies to inform best practices.

Results To Date

SUN TA targets women of reproductive age (15 to 49 years old) with at least one child under two years of age, and/or pregnant women. To date, the project has supported almost 2 million individuals with food security programs that include linking farmers to outgrower schemes, improving household incomes through savings and loans (ZMW 21 million across 13 districts), gardening, training women and other caregivers in preparing nutritious meals for children, and supporting farmers with small livestock. The project has supported 66,759 individuals who applied improved management practices or technologies in agriculture production.

The project has also reached over 72,000 individuals with family planning services. A total of 2,013,608 individuals have gained access to basic sanitation, with over 200,000 individuals gaining access to safe drinking water. Diarrheal cases reported between 2018 and 2021 have reduced from 3,489 in 2018 to 1,958 in 2021, representing an average reduction of 44 percent. In partnership with the Ministry of Health, the community based distributors reached a total of 200,353 clients with family planning services across the 13 districts in 2021, an increase of 91 percent from 2020.