



SPOON



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



SPOON is a global nonprofit eliminating malnutrition for children with disabilities and children without family care by training service providers, deploying a digital health app for assessment and monitoring, and advocating for inclusive policies and programs.

This report illustrates SPOON's impact on children experiencing malnutrition around the world in **Fiscal Year 2025 (October 2024 – September 2025)**.

In a year marked by cataclysmic change in the international development sector, many of our partners and peer organizations were downsized and vulnerable children lost services. **As the world shifted and the need for our work expanded, SPOON kept moving forward and growing.**

That is because of how we are built:

Investing in local partners, grounding our model in knowledge and skill rather than food donations, and staying focused on the children the world's nutrition systems were not designed to reach.



THE NEED

At least 250 million children with disabilities and children without family care live with a heightened risk of malnutrition. These children are malnourished not because their needs are too complex to address, but because health and nutrition systems weren't designed to reach them.

Children with disabilities are three times more likely to be malnourished than other children and malnutrition rates in residential care settings are as high as 91%.

When health and nutrition systems exclude these children, inadequate nutrition support leads to worsened health outcomes, which can push families toward institutional care, where malnutrition and isolation often dramatically increase.



OUR APPROACH: EVERY CHILD THRIVES

SPOON's *Every Child Thrives* approach is built to scale.



TRAINING

We equip local service providers—health workers, rehabilitation workers, nurses, social workers—to deliver disability-inclusive nutrition and feeding care through structured training, ongoing mentorship, and a training-of-trainers model that cascades knowledge to frontline caregivers.



NUTRITION & FEEDING APP

Our nutrition, feeding, and developmental screening app, **Count Me In**, supports service providers to assess children, generate individualized care plans, monitor progress over time, and collect data on a population that has historically gone uncoun­ted.



ADVOCACY

We use program data, evidence, and coalition-building to push governments, funders, and international organizations to include children with disabilities and children without family care in their policies, programs, and investments.



TRAINING

We train professionals working with children on nutrition, feeding, and disability.

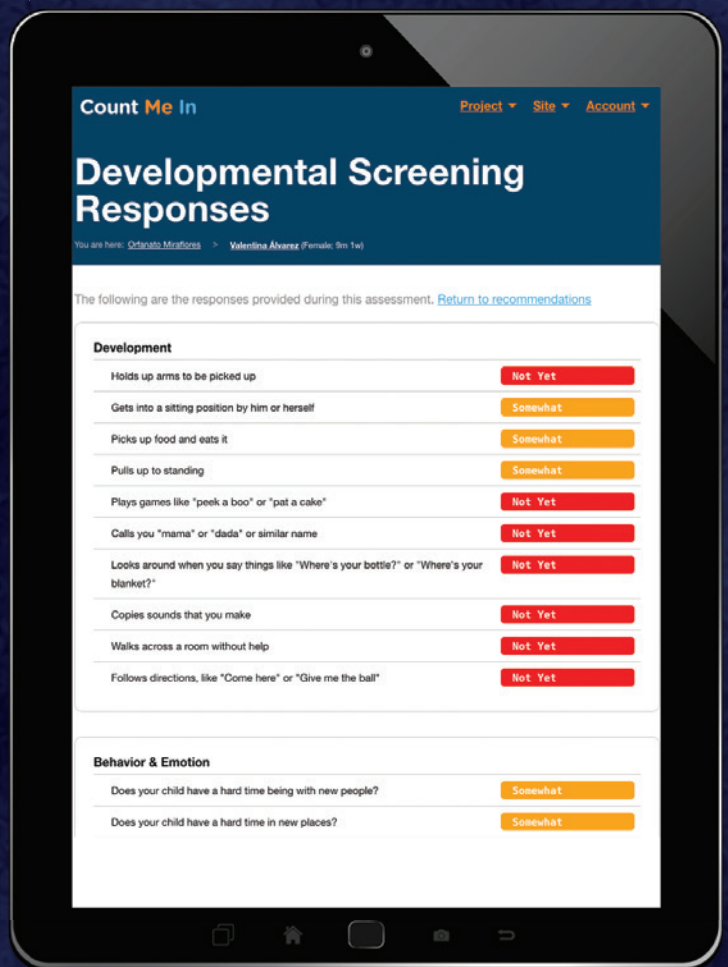
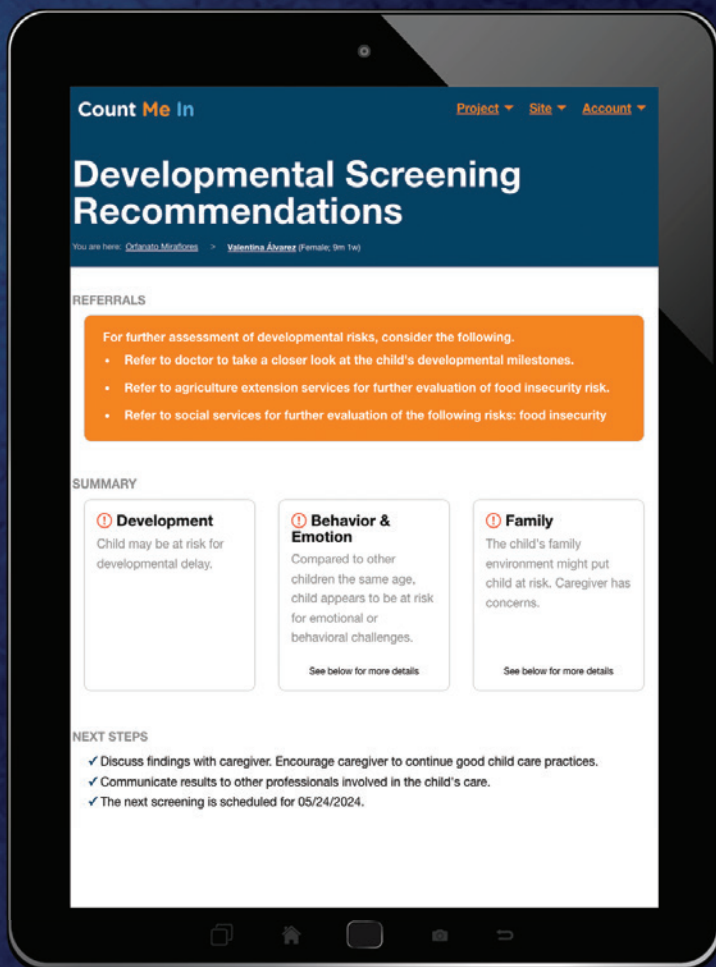
In 2025, SPOON impacted **nearly 11,000 children** by training **850 people in 8 countries.**



NUTRITION & FEEDING APP

Count Me In is SPOON's nutrition, feeding, and developmental screening app.

In 2025, SPOON trainees in **7 countries** conducted over 5,300 nutrition, feeding, and disability assessments on **1,300 children**.



ADVOCACY

SPOON leverages data and evidence to push for policies, investments, and actions to improve nutrition and feeding for children with disabilities and children without family care.

SPOON doesn't just reach children one at a time.
We change the systems that reach them all.

Key Advocacy Successes in 2025

- **March:** Presented at Global Disability Summit
- **March:** Joined World Health Organization Disability Health Equity Network
- **August:** Presented data on nutrition and feeding status of children with disabilities and children without family care to key stakeholders in Uganda
- **August:** Presented SPOON's research at the International Congress of Nutrition
- **September:** Published article on nutrition and feeding status of children with disabilities in Zambia



SPOON STORY



Daniel was eight years old with epilepsy and living in Uganda. He could not sit or support himself, and he relied on a wheelchair for mobility.

Feeding had become a daily struggle. Much of the food his mother tried to give him was lost before he could swallow it. Mealtimes were long, frustrating, and often ended with Daniel having taken in very little nutrition.

His mother had been searching for answers. When she connected with healthcare workers trained through SPOON's program, she finally

found them. Daniel's mother learned simple, practical techniques to better support feeding, including how to modify the texture of his food to make it easier to swallow and how to use gentle jaw and lip support to help Daniel control each bite.

With consistent practice, those small changes made a measurable difference. Daniel began to take in more food at each meal, with far less being lost. Mealtimes became more efficient, less stressful, and more nourishing for mother and child alike.

For children like Daniel, feeding challenges are too often invisible to a health system that was not built to look for them. When providers are equipped to see and respond, the difference is immediate. With the right support, even small adjustments can unlock a child's ability to eat, grow, and thrive.

Through SPOON's partnerships in Uganda and beyond, local health workers are ensuring more caregivers have access to this kind of support and guidance so that every child is nourished and fed.



Lebanon

- Partnered with Save the Children to adapt and expand a disability-inclusive nutrition and feeding curriculum to help nutrition workers better support infants and young children with disabilities.



Lesotho

- In partnership with the Lesotho National Federation of Organizations of the Disabled and the Ministry of Health, conducted a hybrid Training of Trainers to prepare eight Maseru-based lead trainers across multiple sectors to strengthen capacity in disability-inclusive feeding and nutrition.



Sri Lanka

- In partnership with International Social Service and local NGO SERVE, implemented a pilot project to strengthen support services for families of children with disabilities; the main goal was to prevent family separation by building the capacity of professionals.



Somaliland

- In collaboration with Save the Children, developed and piloted the Disability-Inclusive Mentorship Program to improve care for infants and their mothers who were at risk of developing disabilities or feeding difficulties.
- Mentored 10 staff to enhance their ability to support frontline health workers in delivering high-quality, disability-inclusive care.



Uganda

- Partnered with CoRSU Rehabilitation Hospital to conduct research on the nutritional, feeding, and developmental status of children with disabilities and those in residential care.
- Expanded programming to Karamoja, where Nutrition Technical Officers trained 33 healthcare workers and conducted mentorship visits at Moroto and Matany hospitals.
- Strengthened capacity of partners and service providers through two centralized trainings, reaching 61 lead trainers from the Mulago National Referral Hospital and West Nile districts.

OUR IMPACT IN 2025



United States

- Launched **The Nourished and Thriving Children Toolkit: Facilitator Training**, an online Training of Trainers designed to equip service providers in Oregon with trauma-informed feeding and nutrition approaches.
- Piloted the course with over 110 participants and incorporated feedback to finalize and expand access; toolkit now available in English and Spanish.



Vietnam

- Initiated a new program to support families of children with disabilities in Hanoi through community-based training and support.



Zambia

- Published research on the nutrition and feeding status of children with disabilities and disseminated findings to stakeholders locally and globally.
- Supported Zambian lead trainers and Access to Health Zambia to train 54 community caregivers in Lusaka and Kabwe using the FEED Safe Toolkit, endorsed by the Ministry of Health as a national resource.

MORE IMPACT IN 2025

Many partners who received our training prior to 2025 continued to use our app with children in their programs. Through **Count Me In** dashboards, SPOON was able to monitor progress and improved health for these children in Croatia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

SPOTLIGHT ON LEBANON



In 2025, SPOON partnered with Save the Children in Lebanon to bring disability-inclusive nutrition skills to frontline workers, equipping them to reach infants and young children that standard programs were not designed to serve. Because of this gap, these children face elevated risk of malnutrition.

Together, we delivered a hands-on training and ongoing mentorship program that equipped frontline staff with practical skills to assess feeding challenges, support caregivers, and adapt nutrition strategies for each child.

As a result, participants significantly improved their knowledge and confidence, with many already applying what they learned in their daily work and training others. This program demonstrates what happens when health workers are equipped to act: more children are seen, more families are supported, and the system gets a little closer to including everyone.



WHAT HAS CHANGED SINCE SPOON'S TRAINING?

Parents, caregivers, and health workers responded:

There has been a shift away from force-feeding and toward responsive, child-led feeding.

Mealtimes have become calmer, safer, and more nurturing.

Feeding practices are individualized and grounded in dignity and respect for the child.



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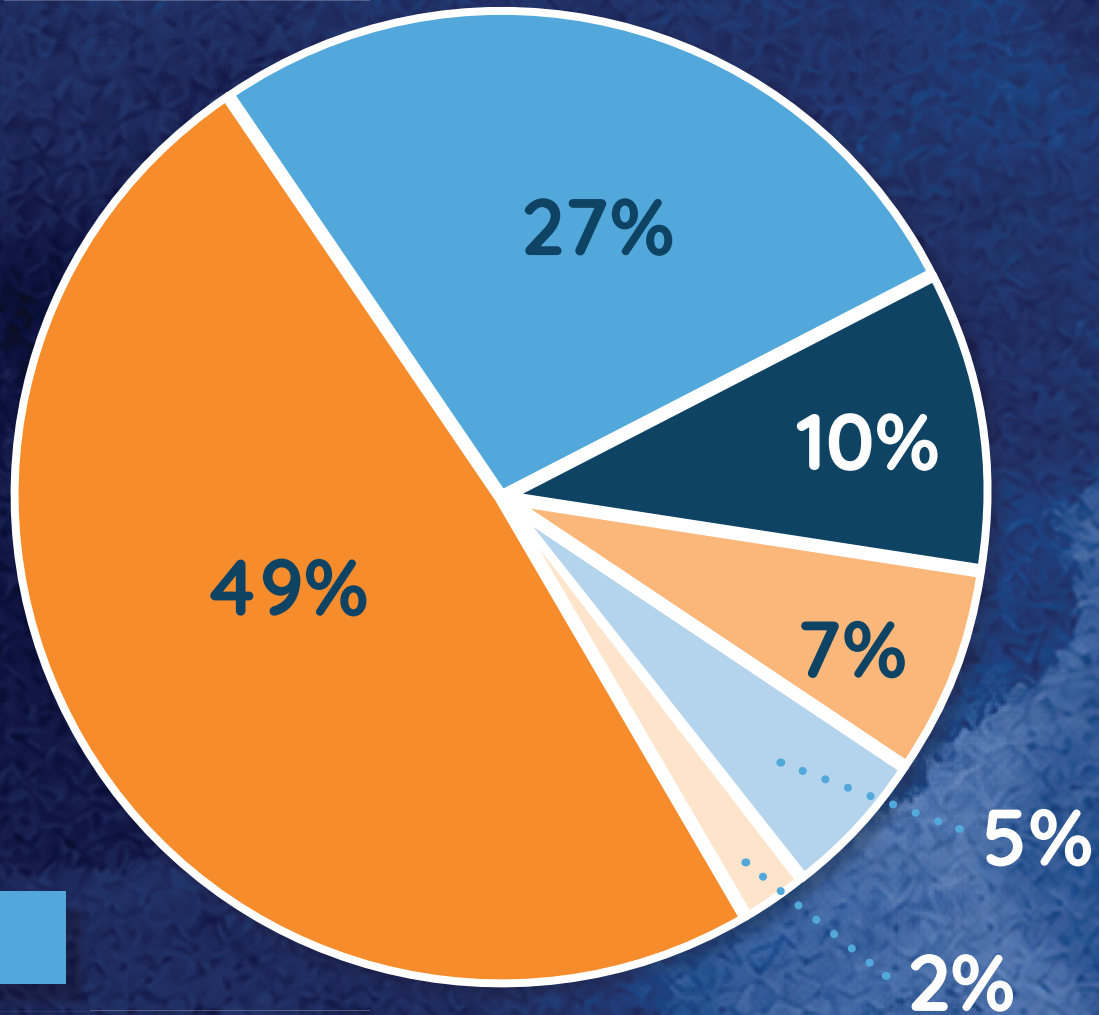


Thank you to the generous individuals, institutions, and partners that believe in our mission to nourish ALL children.

Partners & Collaborators

Access to Health Zambia	Keystone Human Services International	Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center
ADARA		
American University	Kiruddu National Referral Hospital	Oregon State University Extension Service
Association of Religious in Uganda	The Latin American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families	Research and Training Centre for Community Development Vietnam
AWRIM		
Better Care Network	Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled	Sally Mugabe Global Cleft and Cranio-Facial Foundation & Paediatric Association of Zimbabwe
Child's i Foundation	Liliane Fonds	Save the Children
Children's Hospital Paediatric Association of Zimbabwe	Makerere University, College of Health Studies	SERVE
CoRSU Rehabilitation Hospital	Medical Teams International Uganda	Seva Sadan
Darden School of Business, University of Virginia	Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, Zambia	The Small Things
Global Nutrition Cluster	Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, Uganda	Technical Advisory Group / Core Team (Uganda, Zambia, Lesotho)
Global Strategies	Ministry of Health, Uganda	Thrive Coalition
Humanity and Inclusion, Uganda	Ministry of Health, Vietnam	UNICEF
InterAction	Ministry of Health, Zambia	University of Colorado, School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Nutrition Section
International Disability and Development Coalition	Mulago National Referral Hospital	University of Gondar, Ethiopia
International Social Service	National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda	University of Minnesota
Johns Hopkins International Injury Research Unit	OneSky Vietnam	WHO Disability Health Equity Network
Kawempe National Referral Hospital		World Rehabilitation Alliance

FINANCIAL SUMMARY



KEY

- 49% Individuals
- 27% Foundations
- 10% Government Grants & Contracts
- 7% In-Kind
- 5% Earned Income
- 2% Corporate

REVENUE:

\$ 1,351,034

EXPENSES:

\$ 1,236,088

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EVERY CHILD THRIVES



THANK YOU TO

SPOON's staff, Board of Trustees, and volunteers
for dedicating their time in service of our mission.

