This report illustrates SPOON’s impact on vulnerable children around the world in Fiscal Year 2022 (October 2021 – September 2022).

For many of the communities we serve, this year was marked by heightened global conflict, increased food insecurity, and the effects of the global pandemic. Through it all, we remain grateful for our partners, donors, volunteers, staff, and Board members who continue to support our work.

SPOON serves two groups of vulnerable children: children with disabilities and children living outside of permanent family care. These two groups of children often overlap, due to the challenges many families face when caring for children with disabilities at home.

SPOON’s mission is to nourish children who are highly vulnerable to malnutrition by empowering their caregivers around the globe.

Rates of malnutrition can be as high as 91% in childcare institutions, according to SPOON’s research across 21 countries.

Children with disabilities are three times more likely to be malnourished and two times more likely to die from malnutrition during childhood.

250 million children worldwide lack access to nutrition and feeding supports that meet their unique needs, due to disability or lack of family care.

Tragically, 10 million children and counting have lost their caregivers as a result of COVID-19, placing them at high risk of malnutrition.
OUR MODEL

Training
Develop nutrition and feeding capacity of caregivers and local partners through consultation and in-person and remote training.

Digital Health App
Provide customized support for trainees to apply newly learned skills to improve nutrition and feeding for vulnerable children through our app, Count Me In.

Advocacy
Use data from Count Me In to advocate for changes in policy and practice so that all children with disabilities and children without family care have a chance to grow, thrive, and reach their full potential.

TRAINING
SPOON trains professionals who work with children and caregivers on topics related to nutrition, feeding, and disability.

In 2022, SPOON impacted over 14,000 children by training nearly 600 people in 9 countries.
DIGITAL HEALTH APP

Count Me In is SPOON’s digital health app, which is used to identify and treat nutrition and feeding problems in children around the world.

In 2022, 4,913 assessments on growth, feeding, and anemia were completed by 149 Count Me In users on 1,120 children. These children came from 32 sites across 5 countries.

ADVOCACY

Together with our partners, SPOON advocates for children with disabilities and children without family care to have access to the nutrition and feeding support they need to thrive. We work with policy makers, program implementers, advocates, and caregivers to champion optimal health and nutrition for ALL children.

KENYA, INDIA, AND SOUTH AFRICA

SPOON led a consortium of organizations to develop and pilot the Disability-Inclusive Child Development course, which offers a foundational understanding of disability and child development to professionals working to support family care for children.

UGANDA

SPOON and our partners provided technical input to the Government of Uganda’s updated Maternal, Infant, Young Child and Adolescent Nutrition guidelines, resulting in a new section focused on children with disabilities.

UNITED STATES

SPOON worked with coalitions such as the Thrive Coalition and InterAction to urge Congress and the Administration to promote inclusive nutrition, prioritize early child development, and support family care for vulnerable children.

GLOBAL

SPOON drew attention to the urgent need to prioritize nutrition and feeding for children with disabilities and children without family care in times of crisis. We collaborated on the Key Recommendations on Responding to Children’s Care in the Context of the Ukraine Crisis, and we promoted disability inclusion in the response to the global food crisis.
SPOON programs help keep families together. Too often, children with disabilities are placed in institutional care because families lack the skills and knowledge to care for them properly at home. But the research shows that children do best in a family setting, as long as their families receive the right training.

- Dr. Dana Johnson
Neonatologist and Professor of Pediatrics at University of Minnesota

When we first met Mia, a 7-year-old with Down syndrome, her mother was very concerned about her nutrition. She explained that when Mia was two, she used to eat foods that were mashed with a fork, but then suddenly lost her ability to chew and swallow at mealtime. Her mother was frightened by Mia’s choking and coughing and went back to serving only foods that had been run through a blender. Now, a few years later, they came to us for support.

Using the knowledge from SPOON’s training and the recommendations from Count Me In (the digital health app), we worked with Mia and her mother on chewing techniques and how to use a spoon with support. After one month of daily sessions, we were able to restore the feeding skills that she had lost years ago. Now, Mia eats small pieces of food cut up with a fork, has an increased amount of independence, and has a better chance at getting the nutrients she needs to grow and thrive.

- Ivana
SPOON trainee in Croatia
OUR IMPACT IN 2022

Belarus
In partnership with UNICEF, enhanced the national system of early childhood intervention centers with age- and disability-appropriate nutrition & feeding services.

Democratic Republic of Congo
Launched a remote training for a local team of seven staff on nutrition and feeding best practices.

Haiti
Supported child care reform and national accreditation to improve the level of care in nutrition & feeding for children in residential care institutions.

Vietnam
Supported Master Trainers to disseminate training to staff from 14 institutions.

United States
Supported Oregon State University Extension Service to launch the “Nourished and Thriving Children” course, targeted to caregivers of children who have experienced trauma.

Lesotho
With our partners, completed initial phase of UNICEF-Lesotho project aiming to improve early identification of developmental delays in young children.

Haiti
Supported child care reform and national accreditation to improve the level of care in nutrition & feeding for children in residential care institutions.

Croatia
Provided training and tools in nutrition & feeding best practices to six Peer Trainers and over 110 trainees from schools, community centers, and rehabilitation centers.

Tanzania
Supported local partner to conduct nutrition & feeding assessments, allowing them to improve outcomes for children living outside of family care and support family reunification efforts.

Democratic Republic of Congo
Launched a remote training for a local team of seven staff on nutrition and feeding best practices.

Zambia
Integrated nutrition & feeding training into CMMB Zambia’s child protection programming, helping build community health system capacity to deliver health services for children with disabilities.

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With our partners, completed initial phase of UNICEF-Lesotho project aiming to improve early identification of developmental delays in young children.

Zimbabwe
Facilitated remote training for 23 health care providers from the Malnutrition and Rehabilitation Units at a local children’s hospital.

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Uganda
• Expanded nutrition & feeding training and tools to eight additional child care institutions nationwide, while Master Trainers brought their knowledge to the community and influenced key stakeholders to improve care for children with disabilities at risk of family separation.
• In collaboration with St. Catherine University and CoRSU Rehabilitation Hospital, piloted the SPOON Chair to test for acceptability, usability, and feasibility.

Croatia
Provided training and tools in nutrition & feeding best practices to six Peer Trainers and over 110 trainees from schools, community centers, and rehabilitation centers.

Tanzania
Supported local partner to conduct nutrition & feeding assessments, allowing them to improve outcomes for children living outside of family care and support family reunification efforts.

Zimbabwe
Facilitated remote training for 23 health care providers from the Malnutrition and Rehabilitation Units at a local children’s hospital.
In 2022, SPOON expanded our reach by partnering with UNICEF and USAID Advancing Nutrition.

UNICEF
In our third country project with UNICEF, SPOON partnered with UNICEF-Lesotho, the Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled, and the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health’s Department of International Health to develop a country-wide program to identify children with disabilities and link them with appropriate services, including nutrition and feeding. SPOON and our partners used a tool to identify children who are at risk of developmental delays, including growth and feeding, and prepared to train cohorts of professionals from throughout the country. This program is designed for country-wide impact and will roll out through early intervention classrooms and medical clinics.

USAID Advancing Nutrition
Advancing Nutrition is USAID’s nutrition-specific initiative. To better understand the needs of children with feeding difficulties and disabilities, USAID Advancing Nutrition consulted SPOON and found that current policies and programs do not provide sufficient nutritional support to these vulnerable children. SPOON was invited to join the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) that formed as a result of these findings. The TAG led the creation of an online repository of disability-inclusive resources, and SPOON’s resources were included. These materials are now easily accessible to nutrition and disability program leaders and staff at governmental and funding institutions.

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

Institutional Funders

AARP Foundation
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Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation
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GHR Foundation
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Happy Family Brands
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CSO-SUN Zambia
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InterAction
International Social Service
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Keystone Human Services
Kupenda for the Children
Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled
Mobility India

Ministry of Labour, Invalids, and Social Affairs of Vietnam
OneSky
Oregon State University Extension Service
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Sally Mugabe Children’s Hospital
St. Catherine University
Shonaquip Social Enterprise
Smile Train
The Small Things
Thrive Coalition
United Aid for Azerbaijan
UNICEF-Belarus
UNICEF-Lesotho
University of San Francisco
University of Colorado, School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Nutrition Section
University of Zimbabwe
USAID Advancing Nutrition
United States International Council on Disabilities
UTENSILE

Key Partners
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FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Thank you to SPOON’s committed staff, Board of Trustees, and volunteers for dedicating their time in service of our mission.

**OUR TEAM**

**Staff**
- Michael Badalov, MBA, Interim Director of Finance & Administration
- Jon Baldivieso, Director of Products & Services
- Emily Brod, MBA, Director of Finance & Administration
- Alicia Burr, Development & Communications Associate
- Lauren Hughley, MPH, Program Officer
- Anna Julius, Administrative Assistant
- Zeina Makhoul, PhD, RDN, Nutrition Scientist
- Kate Miller, MS, CCC-SLP, CLC, Feeding & Disability Specialist
- Carolyn Moore, MPH, Policy & Advocacy Advisor
- Wendy Piret, MA, Product & Business Development Director
- Samhita Reddy, MPA, Director of Development
- Mishelle Rudzinski, MA, CCC-SLP, Executive Director
- Tammy Teske, MBA, Director of Programs & Partnerships

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**Portland Community Leadership Council**
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- Pip Meagher
- Sue Harrison
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- Mary Helen Carruth
- Kate Fairchild
- Tobey Fitch
- Jocelyn Goodall
- Mary Hearst
- Angie Kephart
- Jaleh Kermani
- Paula Rabaey

**Revenue**
- $1,519,134

**Expenses**
- $1,517,135

**Financial Breakdown**
- 31% Individuals
- 36% Foundations
- 19% Government Grants
- 8% Other
- Earned Income: <1%
- Corporate: 3%
- In-kind: 2%