



SPOON

Impact

2022

THE NEED

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

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.



Children with Disabilities



Children Living Outside of Family Care

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 STORY

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



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



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



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



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



Lesotho

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



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



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



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

KEY PARTNERS

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.

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



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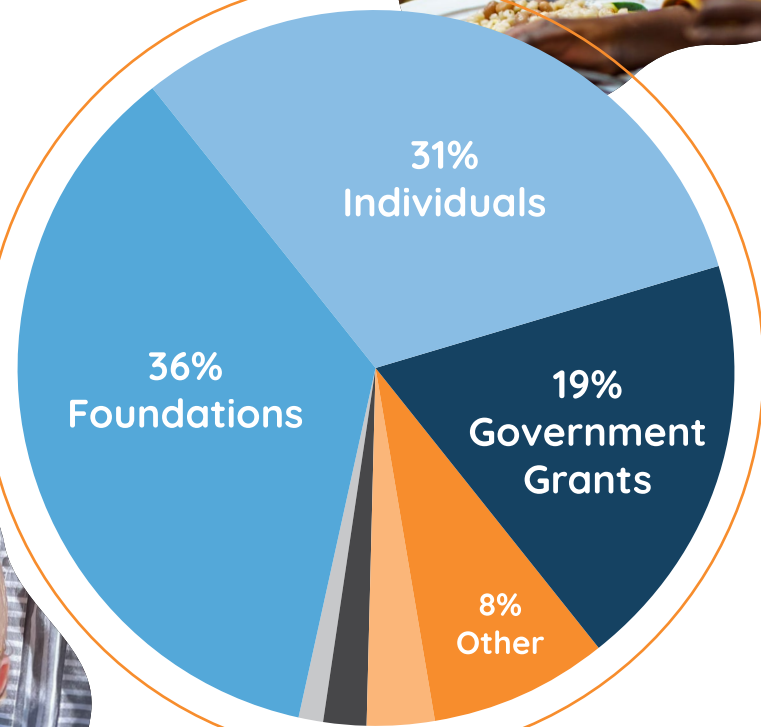
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UNICEF-Lesotho
University of San Francisco
University of Colorado, School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Nutrition Section
University of Zimbabwe
USAID Advancing Nutrition
United States International Council on Disabilities
UTENSILE

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

\$1,519,134 REVENUE

\$1,517,135 EXPENSES



OUR TEAM



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

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Michael Badalov, MBA, Interim Director of Finance & Administration
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Emily Brod, MBA, Director of Finance & Administration
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