




ANNUAL REPORT ————— 2024

SPOON is the
only organization
with the mission to
eliminate malnutrition for
children with disabilities &
children without family care.



This report illustrates
SPOON's impact on
vulnerable children
around the world in
Fiscal Year 2024.

(October 2023 – September 2024)

SPOON serves
children with
disabilities &
children without
family care,
two groups
that are highly
vulnerable to
malnutrition.



Children with
Disabilities



Children without
Family Care

SPOON estimates that there
are over **250 million** of these
children worldwide.

THE NEED



Our Approach

SPOON's strategic goal is to ensure that the **250 million children with disabilities** and **children without family care** are reached by systems that prioritize, include, and meet their nutrition & feeding needs.

We are able to reach **millions of children** through training, our app, and advocacy.

Training



SPOON equips service providers to deliver disability-inclusive nutrition & feeding care.

- Trainees include community health & rehab workers, physicians, nurses, and social workers
- Training covers critical areas of children's health, early identification of disability, and use of *Count Me In*
- Training of Trainers model cascades knowledge to the caregiving community

THOUSANDS of service providers equipped

Nutrition & Feeding App



Service providers assess & monitor children's health and counsel caregivers using SPOON's app, *Count Me In*®.

- App collects unprecedented data on prevalence of malnutrition and solutions to eradicate it
- SPOON leverages data & best practices for advocacy

Advocacy



SPOON pushes for systems that prioritize, include, and meet the nutrition & feeding needs of ALL children.

- SPOON works with local partners and global coalitions to lead a movement for inclusive national and global policies, services, and investments

TENS OF THOUSANDS of children supported by app care plans

MILLIONS of children nourished

High-quality care reaches ALL children



Training

SPOON
equips service
providers
to deliver
**disability-
inclusive
nutrition &
feeding care**
for children
vulnerable to
malnutrition.



In 2024, SPOON impacted over
22,000 children by training nearly
800 people in
10 countries.

Nutrition & Feeding App

Service providers assess & monitor children's health and counsel caregivers using SPOON's app, ***Count Me In.***

In 2024,
SPOON trainees in
8 countries
conducted
over 10,000
nutrition, feeding,
& disability assessments
for 2,322 children.



Count Me In+

In 2024, SPOON piloted an enhanced version of our app to better serve children with disabilities worldwide. In many regions, low internet connectivity poses a challenge to using digital tools. To address this, ***Count Me In+*** offers a mobile-first experience, offline functionality, and integrated developmental screening tools. With these improvements, we can more effectively support children's health and well-being, increasing their chances of thriving within their families.



Advocacy



SPOON advocates for systems that **prioritize, include, and address the nutrition & feeding needs of ALL children**. By collaborating with local partners and global coalitions, we drive a movement for inclusive policies, services, and investments at both national and global levels.

SPOON cannot reach all **250 million children** in need through programs alone. To create lasting, widespread change, **advocacy is essential to scaling our impact**.



Real world impact

SPOON Story

When SPOON first met Lydia, she was **two years old and weighed only 9 pounds** — approximately the size of a healthy infant.

Her mother had brought her to a clinic in Lesotho, where SPOON had recently begun working.

SPOON trainees in Lesotho used ***Count Me In***, our digital health app, to (1) determine that Lydia had a number of developmental delays, and (2) get a concrete, **customized nutrition & feeding plan** to help get her development and growth back on track.

Lydia's mother had been told repeatedly that her daughter "had a problem with feeding", but she had never been given **support, knowledge, or skills** to address that problem — until that day with the SPOON trainees.

If our program had been implemented two years prior, when Lydia first showed signs of feeding difficulty, her mother would have been able to address it early — potentially **preventing disability and certainly reducing malnutrition and stress on her family**.

Through our work in this country, our goal is to ensure that all children in Lesotho have access to the same kind of support that Lydia is now receiving — before a feeding difficulty turns into a disability.





“When we improve nutrition and feeding for children with disabilities, we can facilitate their ability to fulfill their rights to health, to participation, to community living, and to education.”

- Kate Miller | Feeding & Disability Specialist, SPOON

Our Reach In 2024



Somaliland

- Partnered with Save the Children to enhance the management of small and nutritionally at-risk infants and their mothers with disability-inclusive training and tools
- Trained 17 frontline healthcare workers on disability inclusion, the link between disability and nutrition, effective communication with mothers with disabilities, and feeding support for infants with disabilities



United States

- With federal funding, supported Oregon families of children who have experienced trauma by developing a Training of Trainers for service providers to deliver trauma-informed nutrition & feeding services
- Collaborated with OSU-Extension on the translation of the Nourished and Thriving Children course into Spanish



Lesotho

- With UNICEF-Lesotho, presented findings at a webinar hosted by UNICEF headquarters
- Doubled the number of health centers using SPOON training and *Count Me In*
- Selected and trained 13 new Lead Trainers





Uganda

- Launched research study to better understand nutritional status of vulnerable children and identify barriers and opportunities for building inclusive nutrition programs and policy change
- SPOON Nutrition Technical Officers incorporated nutrition & feeding into community outreach and facilitated centralized training for all country sites
- Local partner trained staff at 4 new sites in nutrition & feeding and *Count Me In*, while monitoring 13 existing sites



Zambia

- With Access to Health Zambia, developed a tool to help community workers support parents to feed children safely
- Collected national data on the nutrition and feeding status of vulnerable children



Vietnam

- Partnered with OneSky to equip home-based childcare providers to integrate nutrition & feeding into their care practices, reaching nearly 14,000 children in two provinces

SPOON Chair

Designed the next phase of the project to evaluate the safety and impact of the SPOON Chair in home settings, working with families of children with disabilities in low-resource communities

More Impact in 2024

Many partners who received our training prior to 2024 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, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, and Zambia.

Spotlight on Zambia

In 2024, SPOON, along with Access to Health Zambia and the University of Colorado School of Medicine, collected, analyzed, and published data on the nutrition & feeding status of children in residential care in Zambia using what we learned from our app, *Count Me In*.

These data showed high rates of undernutrition and feeding difficulties. Children with and without disabilities in residential care had much higher rates of undernutrition compared to national averages.

Nearly 25% were underweight, over 25% were stunted, 7% were wasted, and over 50% had anemia. Around 30% of children were at risk of feeding difficulties. Children under two years old and children with disabilities were at especially high risk.

The study affirmed that children need the individualized, responsive care of a family, along with inclusive community supports, to grow and thrive. These data are informing care reform efforts in Zambia, and supporting global advocacy for family care for all children.



Zero Project Winner



In 2024, SPOON won the Zero Project Award for our system-wide approach to fighting malnutrition among children with disabilities. The Zero Project is an initiative that finds and shares solutions that fulfill the rights of persons with disabilities.

SPOON joined other Zero Project awardees at the 2024 Zero Conference showcasing innovations and promising approaches to remove barriers for all. There were 77 awardees from 43 countries, representing a range of innovations designed to support the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

“The winners of the Zero Project have answers for some of the most urgent challenges related to disability inclusion in these times of multiple crises.”
— Martin Essl, Founder of the Essl Foundation

Donors & Partners



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

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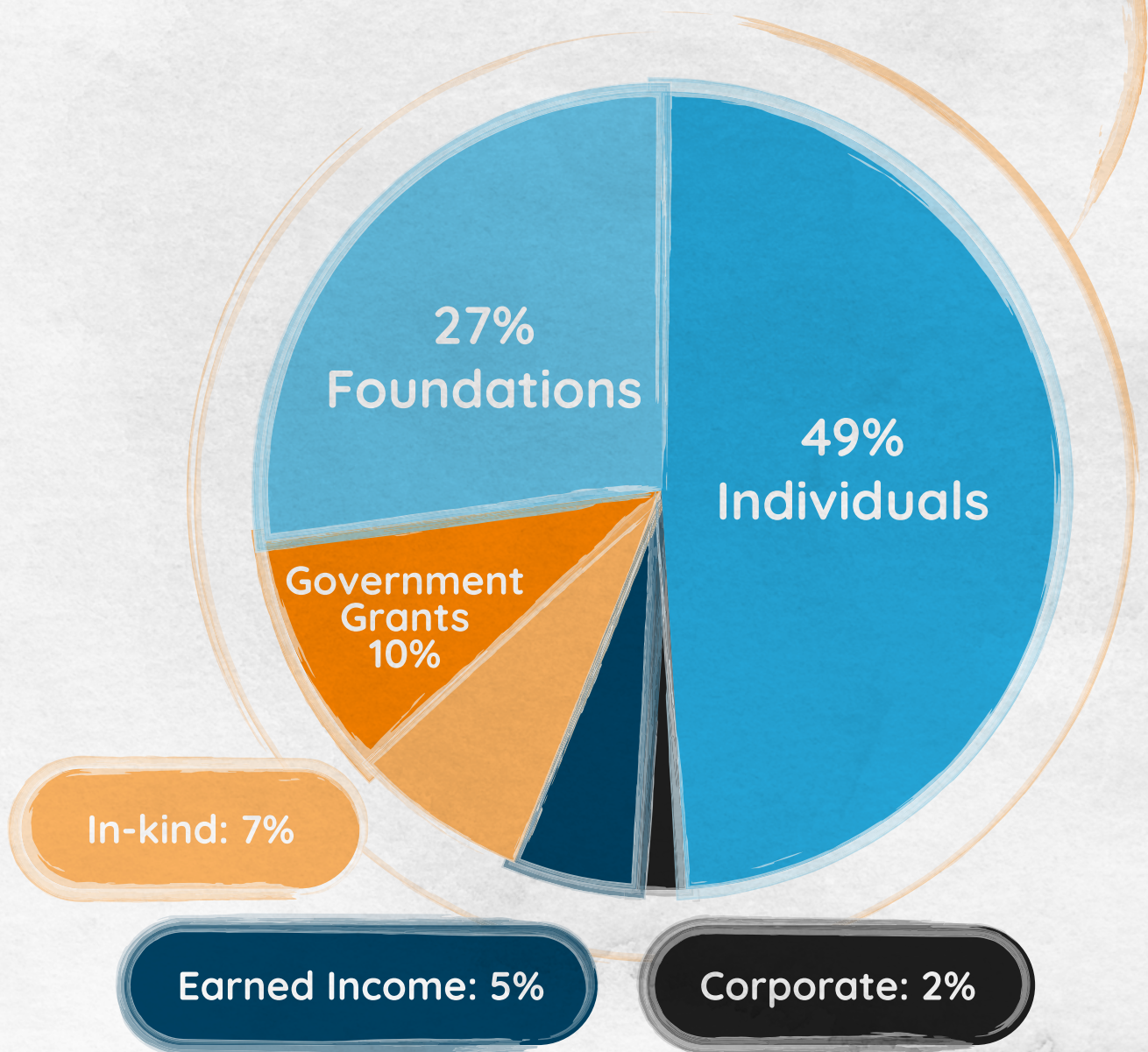
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- | | | |
|---|--|--|
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| • American University | • Liliane Fonds | • Seva Sadan |
| • CoRSU Rehabilitation Hospital | • Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled | • Shonaquip Social Enterprise |
| • InterAction | • Ministry of Labour, Invalids, and Social Affairs of Vietnam | • Technical Advisory Groups: Zambia, Uganda, and Lesotho |
| • International Disability and Development Consortium | • Mubende Regional Referral Hospital | • Thrive Coalition |
| • International Social Service | • OneSky | • UNICEF |
| • Global Orphan Foundation | • Oregon State University Extension Service | • University of Colorado School of Medicine |
| • Johns Hopkins International Injury Research Unit | | |

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Total Revenue: \$1,312,969

Total Expenses: \$1,278,080



Our Team

Our Staff

- Jon Baldvieso, Director of Products & Services
- Emily Brod, MBA, Vice President, Finance & Operations
- Alicia Burr, Development & Communications Associate
- Anna Julius, Administrative & Board Assistant
- Kate Miller, MS, CCC-SLP, CLC, Feeding & Disability Specialist
- Zeina Makhoul, PhD, RDN, Global Nutrition Specialist (Independent Consultant)
- Carolyn Moore, MPH, Director of Policy & Advocacy
- Samhita Reddy, MPA, Director of Development
- Mishelle Rudzinski, MA, CCC-SLP, Executive Director
- Karen Scriven, Vice President, Global Impact
- Tammy Teske, MBA, Senior Director of Programs & Partnerships

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Nutrition Technical Officers (Uganda)

- Doreen Alupo
- Pamela Magero
- Lorna Mary Namususwa
- Lutgard Musiime

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