

Enhancing Young Children's Diets with Small Quantity Lipid-Based Nutrient Supplements (SQ-LNS), integrated within a Resilient System in Gombe State, Nigeria



Health



WASH



Child Protection



Social Protection



Nutrition



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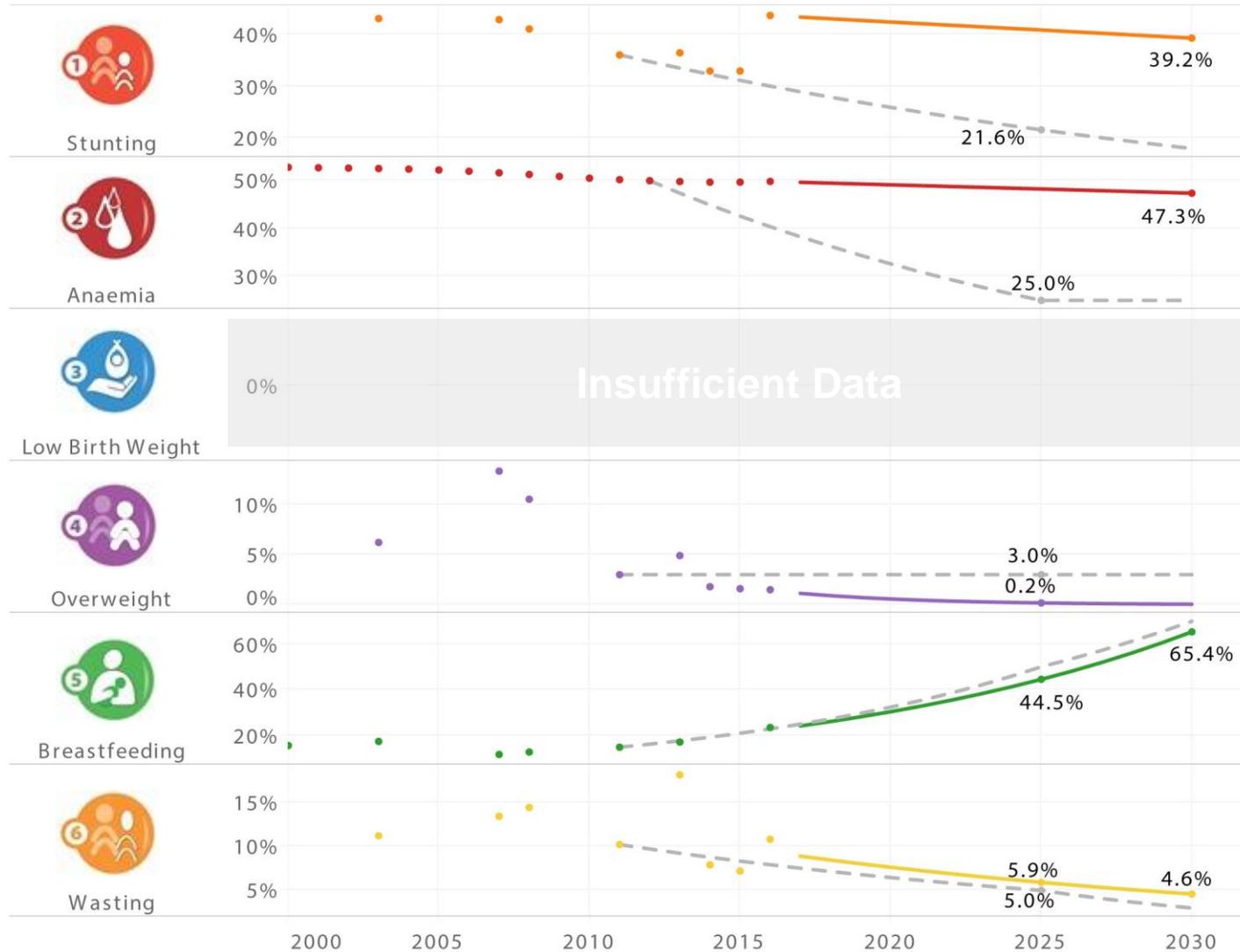
Enhancing Young Children's Diets with SQ-LNS

Outline of Presentation

1. Child malnutrition in Nigeria
2. Overview of PARSNIP Programme
3. Programme Results
4. Challenges
5. Lesson Learned
6. Way Forward



Nigeria remains off track to achieve SDG2



Trends were projected from data after 2008 per WHA Tracker methods

	Target	Projection	2030 Magnitude
Stunting	2025: 40% # reduction 2030: 50% # reduction	Off track	17.8 million
Anaemia	2025: 50% reduction 2030: 50% reduction	Off track	25.8 million
LBW	2025: 30% reduction 2030: 30% reduction	N/A	N/A
Overweight	2025: No increase 2030: Reduce to 3%	On track	0.0 million
EBF	2025: 50% EBF 2030: 70% EBF	Off track	N/A
Wasting	2025: Reduce to 5% 2030: Reduce to 3%	Off track	2.2 million

Commentary:

- Critical need to accelerate progress for stunting and anaemia
- Nigeria is close to reaching targets for EBF and wasting



The 2025 and 2030 target(s) were set to maintain baseline prevalence if target(s) were already reached in the baseline year.

Source: WHA Global Targets Tracker, August 2018; UNICEF Data, June 2019

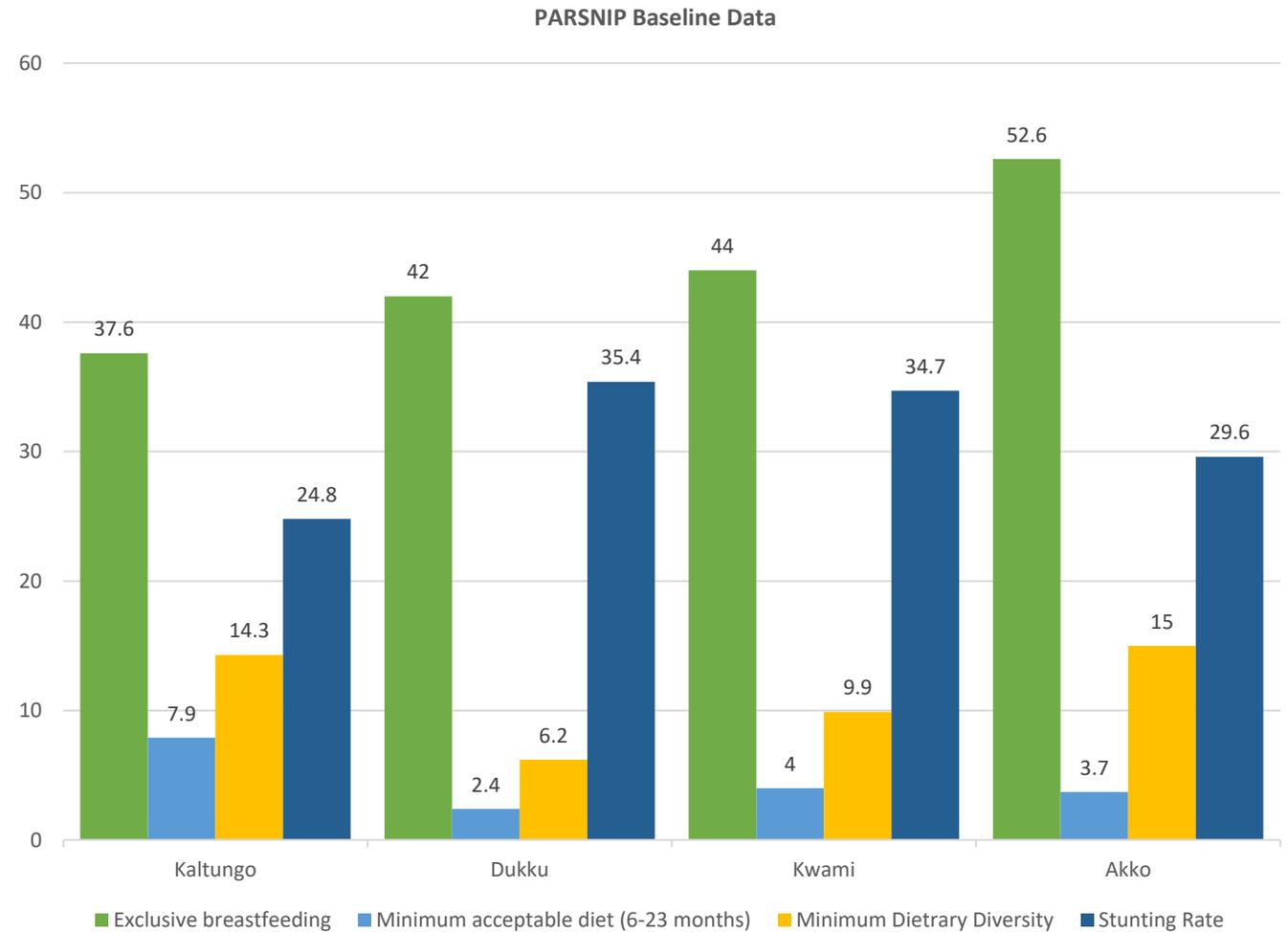
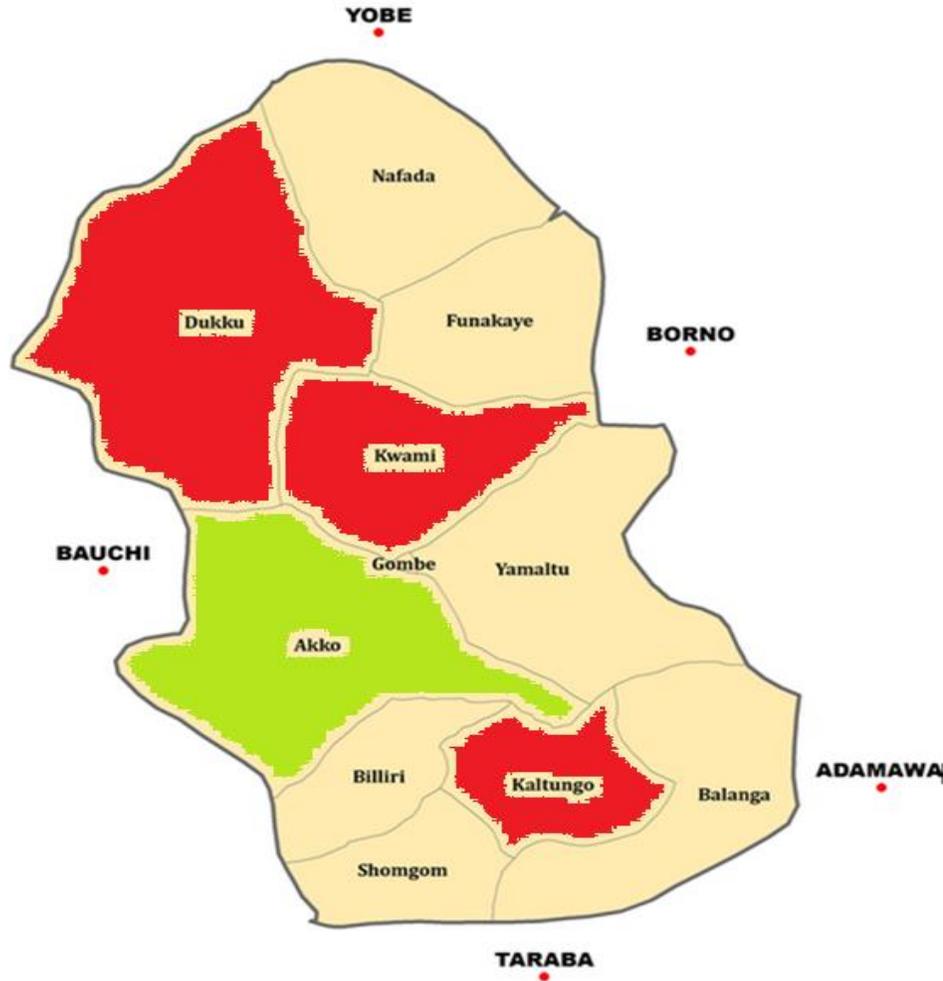
PARSNIP Project: Gombe State



Total Population	3,962,144	
Exclusive Breastfeeding	30.7%	(2021 MICS)
Minimum Dietary Diversity	22.5%	(2021 MICS)
Minimum Acceptable Diet	8.4%	(2021 MICS)
Stunting Prevalence	44.6% (20181NNHS)	

PARSNIP Project:

Local Government Areas



Progressing Action on Resilient Systems for Nutrition through Innovation and Partnership (PARSNIP) Program strategy

1

Enabling Environment

State and Local Governments have enhanced institutional capacities and demonstrate strengthened commitment to scale-up quality nutrition services and interventions

- Policy Development
- Coordination
- Unlocking financing
- Partnerships

2

System Strengthening

Health, Food and Social Protection Systems to deliver safe affordable and nutrition diets and high impact nutrition services at scale for women, children and adolescent

3

Diets and Practices

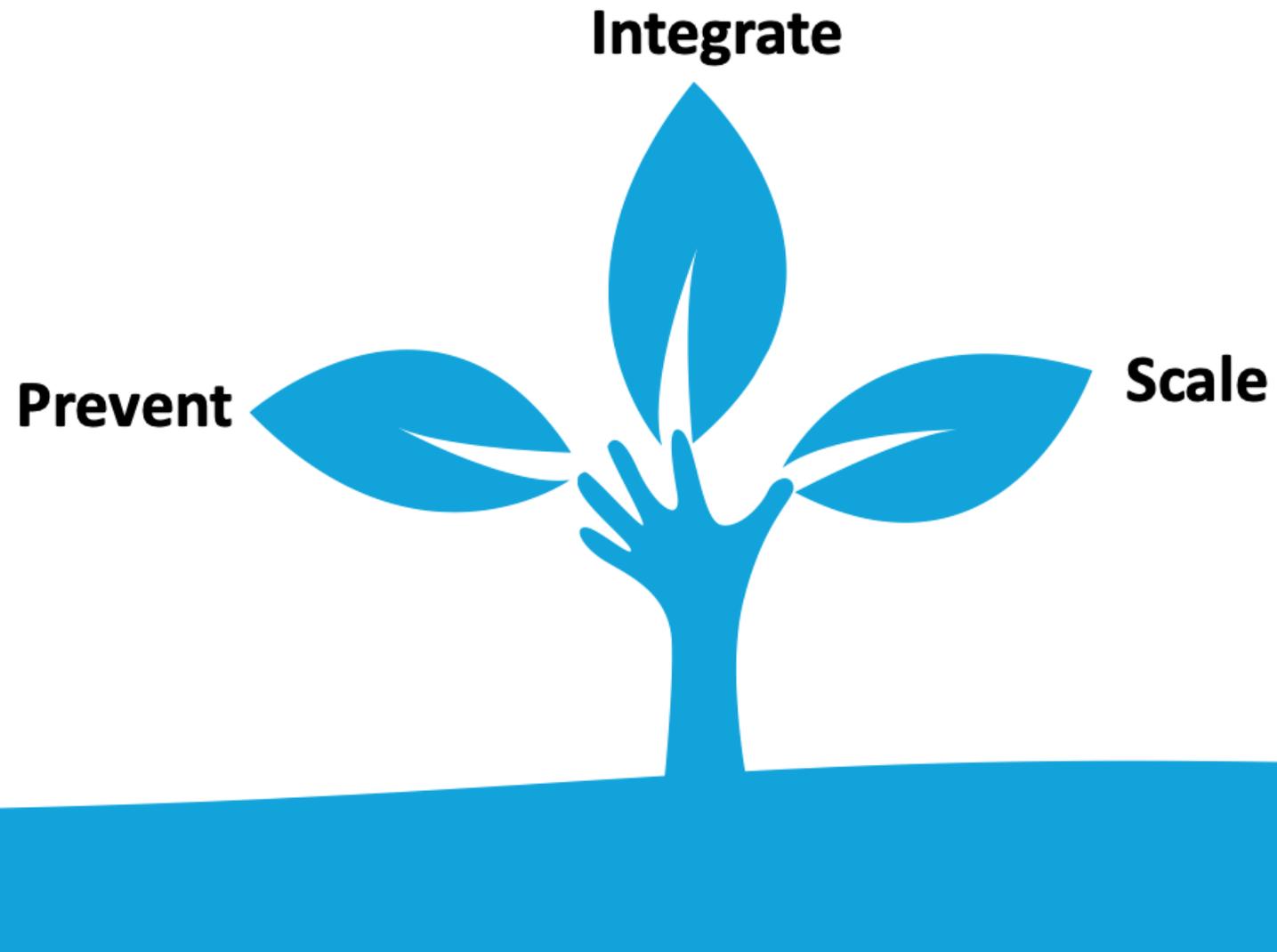
Improve cultural practice and social norms to adopt key IYCF Practices

Increase adoption of key parenting, caregiving and IYCF practices

Increased male engaged in Child care practices

Improve women and girls Household Decision Making

Program Mantra



Creation of Enabling Environment: Optimizing Policies and Programs for Child Wasting

Programme Result



Project Results: Systems' strengthening

- **Capacity Building:** Training on IYCF linked with SQLNS for 155 Frontline Health Care Workers
- **Community Health Systems:** 310 Community-Based Volunteers trained to facilitate support group meetings, GMP, MUAC screening for Early Prevention Detection and Treatment of Child Wasting
- **Treatment of SAM:** 4,931 children aged 6–59 months (2,442 boys/ 2,501 girls) treated for SAM, with over 95% cured, <10% deaths and <15% defaulter rate
- **Conversion of CMAM centers into Health Facilities in all 3 LGAs**

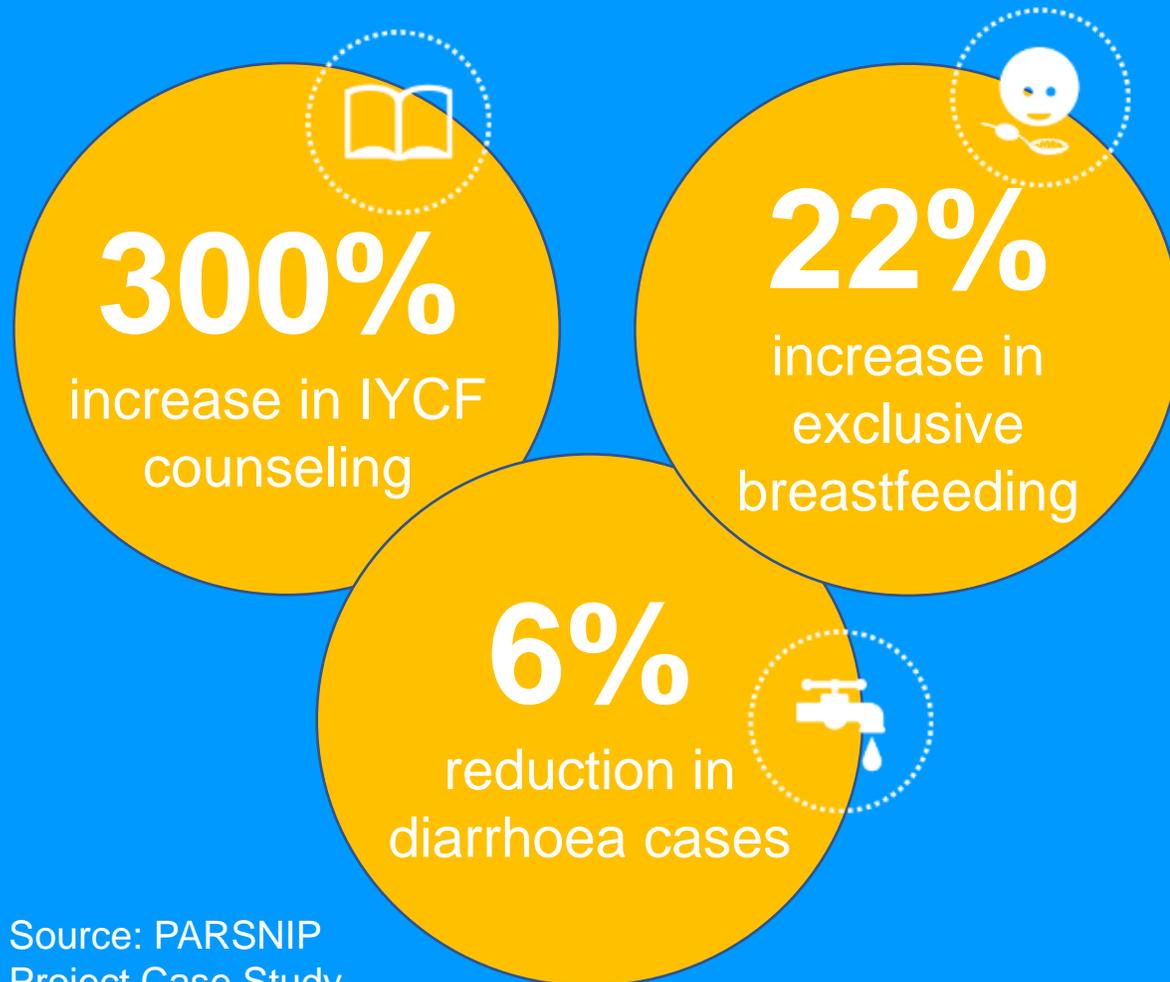
Project Results: Diets and Practices

- **IYCF counselling:** 18,682 caregivers counselled on IYCF linked with SQLNS, alongside Family-led MUAC
- **Homestead gardening** : 312 micro-gardens established in the 3 Implementing LGAS

Home Fortification: 15,170 children aged 6–23 months (boys: 7,817; girls: 8,353) received **SQ-LNS** in 3 Project LGAs in Gombe State

More project results

PARSNIP activities led to...



Source: PARSNIP
Project Case Study
Documentation

We like the SQLNS (children fertilizer) because it helps our children to be strong, energetic and fresh. Any one of us here... can buy the product if it is sold in the market simply because of its effectiveness."

Mother, Dukku LGA

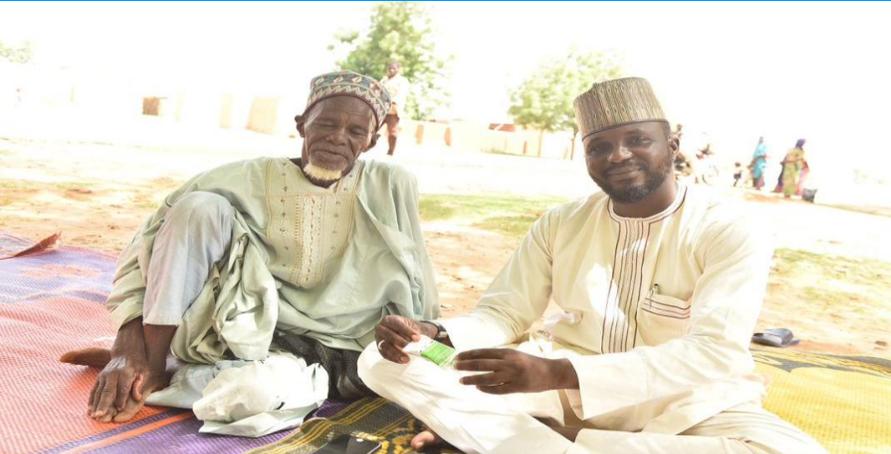
I have used "Taki Yara" (SQ-LNS). I wash my hands first with soap and water. I mix the SQ-LNS with rice or porridge. I use half of the SQ-LNS per meal. The remaining half, I keep till the next meal in a clean container. I feed my child till he is satisfied.

Mother, Kaltungo LGA

We were so happy seeing our children change, the moment we started feeding them food that contains the SQLNS. The change in their body skin, body size, and growth was instant. The best part was that the children loved the product so much, it was easy to give it to them without force-feeding them.

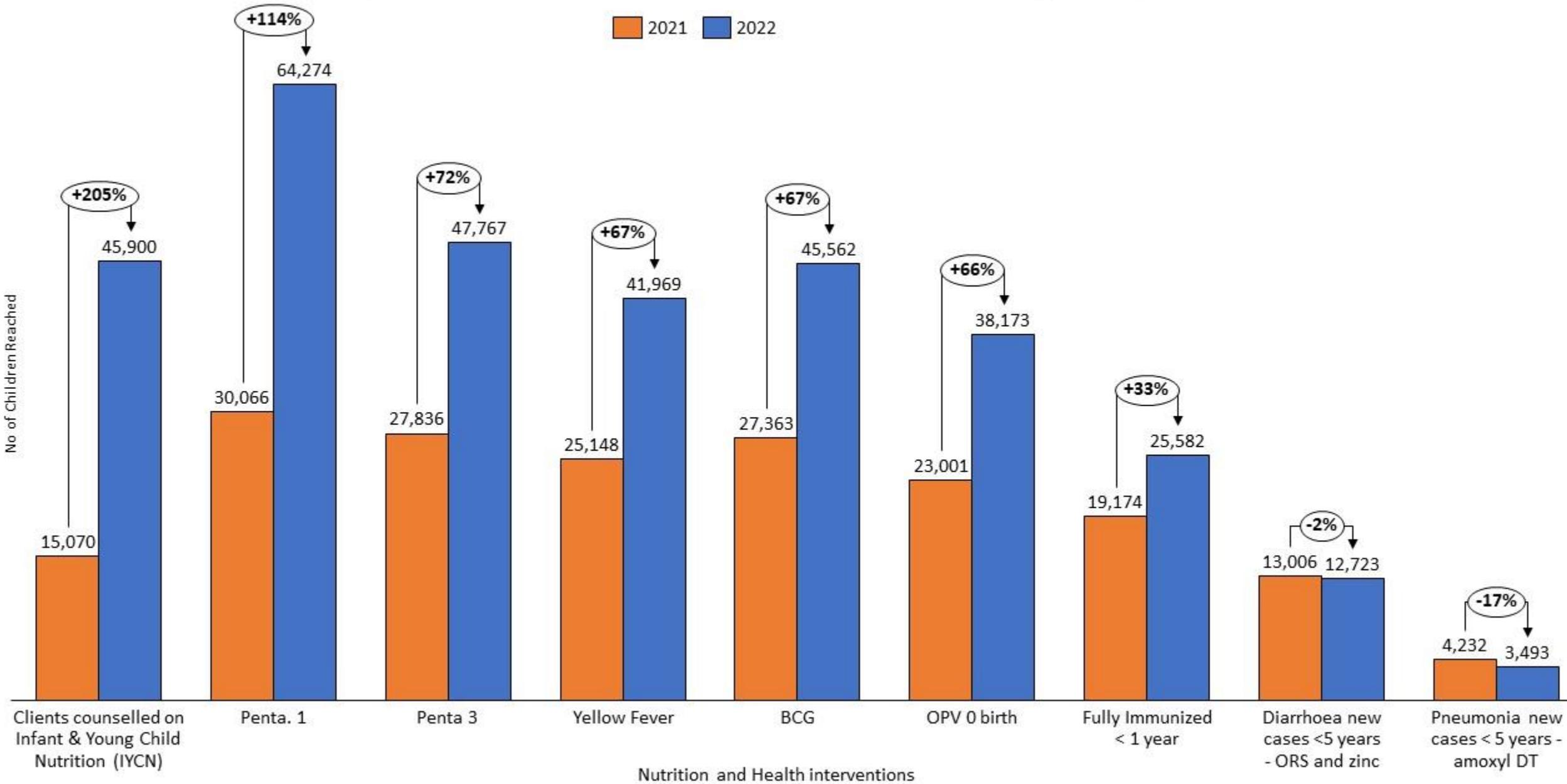
Mother, Kwami LGA

Sensitization of Local Opinion Leaders to create Positive Normative Change as Part of Integrated SBC Programme



Combination of community forums and dialogues at the LGA, Ward and Community levels involving different categories of Influencers. What we're strategically doing differently this time is negotiating and agreeing with men, especially where cultures and norms are strong, on **Small Doable Actions (SDAs)** to promote and protect and promote good diets , care and practice including the development of **community action plans** to implement and track those SDAs. As a result, our planned discussion guides would explore **“triggering moments”** (*that is, to find compelling reasons to initiate discussion, such as the death of a child in the community due to diarrhoea from giving water during the first six months, etc.*

Increase in Uptake of Health and Nutrition intervention in Dukku, Kaltungo and Kwami LGA





SQ-LNS are **NOT** a stand-alone intervention

SQ-LNS should **always** be accompanied by IYCF messaging, including importance of a diverse diet

PARSNIP project includes **SQ-LNS as part of package of support** (Family-Led, MUAC; SBCC; IYCF Support Groups etc.)

Challenges

- Deeply-entrenched negative norms and practice impact Child Food Poverty
- Flooding in neighbouring states (Adamawa and Yobe) in 2022 led to influx of caregivers & increased demand for SQ-LNS, resulting in early stock-out
- Global shortage of SQ-LNS supplies

Lessons Learned

- **Integration of Nutrition & Health Services:** Distribution of SQ-LNS led to increased uptake in immunization, birth registration and family planning as mothers encouraged to bring immunization cards during IYCF sessions
- **Adoption of Positive Practices to Empower Community Leaders , Religious Leaders and Fathers with SBCC** is effective in addressing harmful gender norms
- **Importance of initiating Local SQ-LNS production** to address shortages

Way forward

Rolled out of SQLNS Program in Adamawa, Bauchi and Plateau State

Continuous resource mobilization for procurement and local production of SQ-LNS

Inclusion of SQ-LNS in Essential Medicines List in Nigeria

Cultivation of Orange Flesh Sweet Potatoes

Sustain Gender-Responsive MIYCF Social & Behavioural Change

Positive Parenting &

Roll out of Complementary Feeding Bowl & Spoon

Thank you!
Nagode!

unicef  | for every child

