



# THE SMALLER PICTURE

A CLOSER LOOK AT **THE CHILDREN WHO INSPIRED US** IN ZIMBABWE

# 145,497

CHILDREN SCREENED FOR ACUTE MALNUTRITION DURING 2017.

# 60%

OF CHILDREN FOUND TO BE MALNOURISHED WERE ADMITTED FOR TREATMENT.



## WORKING TOGETHER TO FIGHT AGAINST MALNUTRITION

“At one point I thought my son was going to die, each time I looked at him tears would fill my eyes. He could not walk, eat well or even play with other children. He is the only child I am left with, the other seven died. The thought of losing another child made me numb,” said Spiwe\* as she told the story of how her one year old baby Nyasha\* survived Severe Acute Malnutrition through the intervention from Save the Children’s Nutrition programme.

In February 2017, Save the Children team came across Nyasha’s name on a list of malnourished children who required follow-up, in Msampa Clinic, in Kariba District of Zimbabwe. Since then, the team has been following up with Nyasha\* who is now healthy.

Spiwe\* said: “I am so thankful that Save the Children introduced this program in our district. Through the Mothers’ Support

group sessions facilitated by our Village Health Worker I have learnt how to feed my baby nutritious food with adequate nutrients using locally available food.”

Each Village Health Worker established an Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) support group that was linked to a hygiene promotion village Health Club. A total of 55,697 mothers and 14,414 fathers were counseled last year, through support groups which promote optimal breastfeeding practices and offer practical guidance on how to prepare affordable nutrient dense foods for children under two years old.

Kenias, the Village Health Worker, was the key contact person who periodically visited Nyasha. The skills she acquired through the Save the Children training helped her to conduct the routine check-ups, weigh and help advise how to feed the child.

This training equipped 809 Village Health Workers like Kenias, across seven districts, to provide quality screening and early detection of malnourished children like Nyasha at community level, which was not the case before. Early detection promotes early treatment and saves lives.

Nyasha is one of the 145,497 children who were screened for acute malnutrition during 2017. Sixty percent of children found to be malnourished were admitted for treatment. Overall 79.4% of children recovered from acute malnutrition. To ensure that children did not relapse after being discharged, all children were referred to an Infant and young child feeding (IYCF) support groups that were established with support from Save the Children.

*\*Names changed to protect the child’s identity.*

# 79.4%

OF CHILDREN RECOVERED FROM ACUTE MALNUTRITION

