

BENEFICIARIES REACHED

PROGRAMME AREA	ANGOLA	MOZAMBIQUE	RWANDA	SIERRA LEONE	SOUTH AFRICA	SOUTH SUDAN	UGANDA	TOTAL PEOPLE REACHED
YEAR 2021 TOTALS	903 031	412 199	549	57 276	166 352	1 299 391	50 835	2 889 633

The world continues to grapple with complex humanitarian challenges, made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. In this context, JAM remains focused on alleviating the suffering of vulnerable families and communities across the African continent in dignified and sustainable ways.

Throughout the past quarter, we continued to impact many lives, despite some challenging contexts. JAM administered vital assistance to **919 680** beneficiaries across seven countries in Eastern, Central, and Southern Africa during this period. This was an increase from our third quarter number of about **840 000**.

The majority of the beneficiaries were served in emergency contexts in Angola, Mozambique and South Sudan where conflict and natural disasters, such as drought, severe storms and flooding, continue to wreak devastation.

JAM had to take the difficult decision to close down operations in Sierra Leone by the end of February 2022. Despite all the efforts and investment that JAM made in the country, the Government of Sierra Leone failed to fulfill its contractual obligations for funding. This situation undermined programme continuity and placed us in a position of disrepute with service providers as we were unable to meet our financial obligations. The situation was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as theft and vandalism of our assets. Our primary concern remains with our beneficiaries and we will therefore continue to work collaboratively to find a local NGO that can retain certain assets and ensure the continuation of our Home-Grown School Feeding Programme and the development of **200** farmers in Yele. Should funding become available we will reconsider our decision.

Overall, in 2021 we have impacted close to **3-million** lives through our interventions in the following programming areas: **Emergency Response, Health and Nutrition, Education, Economic Empowerment, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Food Security and Livelihoods.**





EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In Angola, JAM issued an emergency response to the ongoing drought in the south western provinces — which has led to high wasting rates among children under five. The response will see to the feeding of children in the provinces of Cahama and Cunene for three months after schools have opened for the new year, with a possible extension if funds allow.

JAM in Mozambique has continued to provide assistance to victims of natural disasters and the armed conflict in Cabo Delgado by providing essential water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure as well as training to some of the 13 resettlement sites for internally displaced people (IDPs). In partnership with UNICEF and the Government Ministry of Infrastructure, latrines and ablution areas have been installed as has a grid water system, with an additional two solar-powered water systems (SPS) which now deliver clean water to **4 800** people.

A partnership with the National Institute for Risk and Disaster Management saw a project, designed for the districts hit by Cyclone Eloise in January 2021, to completion with the construction of a solar-powered water system and the rehabilitation of a school, two health centres and a mortuary.

In South Africa, the ramifications of the riots in July continued into the fourth quarter with our emergency food hamper distribution continuing to **27 212** families in need.



FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

JAM wants Africa to thrive and a large part of that is assisting people to become self-sufficient once humanitarian help has been given. This is done through our various agricultural and community asset building programmes.

In Mozambique, JAM continued to distribute seeds and tools and train people in sowing procedures, conservation agriculture, post-harvest handling (marketing and preserving goods), compost making and natural pesticide production. We also trained extension workers, who provide technical assistance to emerging farmers.

One of JAM South Sudan's strategic outcomes is to enhance income security for women and youth in rural, semi-urban and urban areas. We enlisted the assistance of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Government of Japan to support and promote decent work and the agribusiness enterprises for these groups in Juba. The project targets about **300** households in total and beneficiaries enrolled are organised around, and operate in, five agro-enterprise groups.

Our Cash-For-Assets (CFA) projects in South Sudan, where people are paid to build assets for their communities, have resulted in about **4 760** hectares being planted with a diverse set of crops including sorghum, groundnuts and sesame. The CFA beneficiaries also constructed **31** shallow wells and six multipurpose ponds, improving access to water supply. About **40km** of community access roads were constructed and **17km** of flood dykes that improve rural connectivity as well as control flood water and prevent flood-related damage.

JAM further assisted beneficiaries with farming implements and artisans with blacksmith kits to improve local production and access to farm tools.

In the reporting period, JAM Uganda was able to support **10 921** beneficiaries in and around refugee settlements with FSL interventions centred around vegetable and selected field crop production while also ensuring peaceful coexistence between refugees and the host community. The beneficiaries are mainly mothers drawn from both groups. Having managed to plant **289** acres in the second rainy season, we recently obtained **15** more acres on which to pilot dry season vegetable farming and this has been very successful to date.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

JAM Angola continues to work hard towards addressing ongoing malnutrition. In Kwanza Sul province, through its partnership with Nutriset, producers of F75 and F100 therapeutic milks, JAM has been able to reach **5 819** malnourished children admitted to hospitals. To reduce the number of children lost, our nutrition teams have been conducting community level awareness and screening of children, pregnant and breastfeeding mothers for early detection and treatment of malnutrition.

In partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), JAM also conducted a historic nutrition SMART survey in Benguela and Huambo provinces whereby we assessed over **1 000** households, **740** children and **300** pregnant women. The survey results will be used by the government for strategic planning and developing policies for interventions to curb endemic malnutrition in Angola.

In South Sudan, JAM manages **37** stationary nutrition facilities with four outreach sites across Pibor County that screen and treat acute malnutrition and malaria and provide prevention measures for other diseases among the vulnerable groups of children, pregnant or breastfeeding women, the elderly and the disabled.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

In Angola, which is experiencing severe drought, a total of **24** wet wells were installed and **14** wells/boreholes were rehabilitated. Two solar-powered water pumps were also installed at Cubal hospital and in the Tchissota community.

In Mozambique, our WASH interventions have been very impactful in IDP resettlement camps, restoring some dignity to those left homeless by conflict in their hometowns. Water networks and solar-powered pumps have made a huge difference in these communities.

In Uganda, we reached approximately **4 600** beneficiaries through WASH programmes. We installed handwashing stations at informal market areas and churches in Palorinya and JAM staff also conducted sensitisation and awareness sessions to promote hygienic practices.



EDUCATION

The Covid-19 pandemic limited school pupils' access to vital services such as education and school feeding in many of the countries in which we serve. Where we could not feed at school, JAM continued distributing dry, take-home rations to students. Even when schools did reopen, a considerable number of parents were hesitant to send their children back for fear of them contracting the virus.

Despite these challenges, JAM was able to provide feeding to **17 899** school children in Angola during this period with a total of **954 200** meals being served. Additionally, **75** teachers were trained to use laptops/computers in the Boeing/LEGO STEM promotion programme in schools so that they are able to impart knowledge on basic technology to those in upper primary school grades.

JAM Mozambique fed **24 666** pupils in **52** primary schools across the provinces of Inhambane, Sofala and Cabo Delgado — **690 182** meals on average were distributed each month. Through our school gardens, created as part of our school feeding programme, a whopping **2 699kg** of vegetable crops were harvested for distribution to **1 888** pupils.

Through school feeding undertaken across affiliated Early Childhood Development centres in South Africa, we partnered with several organisations to serve over **70 000** beneficiaries. JAM's activities toward promoting community agriculture continue around the country with many school gardens being able to harvest vegetables

In South Sudan, the education programming undertaken during the fourth quarter of 2021 was aimed at bolstering the efficacy of JAM's WFP-supported school feeding programme. Activities completed include constructing beneficiary sheds at **11** food distribution points, equipping **21** schools with energy-saving stoves and supplying JAM Red Bowls for serving food to **45 270** pupils.



Q4 | 2021

QUARTERLY REPORT *OCTOBER - DECEMBER*

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OVERVIEW OF Q4

The world continues to grapple with complex humanitarian challenges, made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. In this context, JAM remains focused on alleviating the suffering of vulnerable families and communities across the African continent in dignified and sustainable ways.

Throughout the past quarter, we continued to impact many lives, despite some challenging contexts. JAM administered vital assistance to **919 680** beneficiaries across seven countries in Eastern, Central, and Southern Africa during this period. The majority of the beneficiaries were served in on going emergency contexts in Mozambique, Angola and South Sudan.

JAM had to take the difficult decision to close down operations in Sierra Leone by the end of February 2022. Despite all the efforts and investment that JAM made in the country, the Government of Sierra Leone failed to fulfill its contractual obligations for funding. This situation undermined programme continuity and placed us in a position of disrepute with service providers as we were unable to meet our financial obligations. The situation was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as theft and vandalism of our assets. Our primary concern remains with our beneficiaries and we will therefore continue to work collaboratively to find a local NGO that can retain certain assets and ensure the continuation of our Home-Grown School Feeding Programme and the development of **200** farmers in Yele.

Overall, in 2021 we have impacted close to **three million lives** through our interventions in the following programming areas: **Emergency Response, Health and Nutrition, Education, Economic Empowerment, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Food Security and Livelihoods.**

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

ANGOLA

JAM Angola continues to work hard through its **health and nutrition** programming towards addressing malnutrition. In addition to persistent programmes in Benguela province, JAM also issued an **emergency response** to the ongoing drought in the south western provinces — which has led to high wasting rates among children under five.

In Kwanza Sul province, through its partnership with Nutriset, producers of F75 and F100 therapeutic milks, JAM has so far been able to reach **5 819** malnourished children admitted to hospitals. Of these children, **2 963** have been cured while the rest continue to undergo treatment. Sadly, **145** children died due to complications.

To reduce the number of children lost, our nutrition teams have been conducting community level awareness and screening of children, pregnant and breastfeeding mothers for early detection and treatment of malnutrition.

In partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), JAM also conducted a historic nutrition SMART survey in Benguela and Huambo provinces whereby we assessed over **1 000** households, **740** children and **300** pregnant women. The survey results will be used by the government for strategic planning and developing policies for interventions to curb endemic malnutrition in Angola.

The Covid-19 pandemic limited school pupils' access to vital services such as **education** and school feeding. When the government authorised a resumption of classes without authorising food preparation at the schools, JAM continued distributing dry, take-home rations to students. Even when schools did reopen, a considerable number of parents were hesitant to send their children back for fear of them contracting the virus. JAM, together with the Parent Teacher Associations of each school, helped to encourage parents by guaranteeing compliance with COVID-19 protocols recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO). There is concern that the disturbances to the education calendar will have far-reaching negative consequences for children's education and nutritional status. Despite these challenges, JAM was able to provide feeding to **17 899** school children during this period. A total of **954 200** meals were served.

Additionally, **75** teachers were trained to use laptops/computers in the Boeing/LEGO STEM promotion programme in schools so that they are able to impart knowledge on basic technology to those in upper primary school grades.

In water, sanitation and hygiene programmes, a total of **24** wet wells were installed, nine in Kwanza Sul and **15** in Benguela and **14** wells/boreholes were rehabilitated. Two solar water pumps were also installed at Cubal hospital and in the Tchissota community.

MOZAMBIQUE

During the fourth quarter of 2021, JAM Mozambique fed **24 666** pupils in **52** primary schools across the provinces of Inhambane, Sofala and Cabo Delgado — **690 182** meals on average were distributed each month. Through our school gardens, created as part of our school feeding (**education**) programme, a whopping **2 699kg** of vegetable crops were harvested for distribution to **1 888** pupils.

In partnership with Humedica, JAM assisted **200** households (**1 380** people) in Sofala province's Muanza district with seeds and tools as part of our **food security and livelihoods** programmes. The beneficiaries were also trained in sowing procedures, conservation agriculture, post-harvest handling (marketing and preserving goods), compost making and natural pesticide production.

During November 2021, a baseline survey was conducted across three villages in the Vilankulo district (Inhambane) to assess the benefits of the Community Agriculture Project which is currently in its second phase.

In coordination with the Vilankulo District Agriculture Department and the Eduardo Mondlane University, **24** extension workers were trained. Extension workers provide technical assistance to emerging farmers.

JAM Mozambique has continued to provide **emergency response** programming for victims of natural disasters and the armed conflict in Cabo Delgado.

In Cabo Delgado, people have fled to about **13** resettlement sites in the Montepuez area and are trying to rebuild their lives. To help them achieve this safely, JAM has provided essential **WASH** infrastructure to some of the sites, in partnership with UNICEF and the Government Ministry of Infrastructure. The project was targeted towards both



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JAM
HELPING AFRICA HELP ITSELF

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JAM promoted good hygiene in the resettlement sites using the “Community Led Total Sanitation” approach. This in-person sensitisation programme was carried out in line with the Ministry of Health’s COVID-19 preventive measures.

About **400** IDP families constructed latrines for themselves with concrete slabs provided by JAM. Moreover, we constructed **20** communal bathing facilities that benefited over **1 000** who had newly arrived at the resettlement site.

In addition to installing a grid water system for the Nacate host community, JAM Mozambique constructed two solar-powered water systems (SPS) at the Ntele and Nicuapa resettlement sites. These installations deliver clean water, adequate for personal and household needs, to **4 800** people. Two Water Well User Committees were established and trained for the management of these systems.

In partnership with the National Institute for Risk and Disaster Management, an emergency project designed for the districts hit by Cyclone Eloise in January was implemented from July to December.

This emergency project achieved the construction of one solar-powered water system which provides water to **1 200** people and also led to the rehabilitation of two classrooms and one teacher’s office at a primary school. We were also able to carry out the rehabilitation of two health centres, which provide healthcare services to approximately **20 000** people. Finally, the rehabilitation and upgrade of the Doane mortuary house in Govuru district was achieved through this project.

SOUTH AFRICA

JAM South Africa reached about **100 000** beneficiaries through its key programming pillars as elucidated below.

Through school feeding undertaken across affiliated Early Childhood Development centres we partnered with several organisations to serve over **70 000** beneficiaries. This was achieved despite the various barriers which emerged during the course of the year.

The ramifications of the riots in July continued into the fourth quarter with our emergency food hamper distribution continuing to **27 212** families in need, thanks to the help of partners ABSA, Capitec, AECI, Shoprite, the LEGO foundation as well as a number of churches and local foundations working at community level. These partners facilitated the emergency response by identifying food parcel recipients, providing food distribution points, or offering financial support.

We continue to address the nutritional and educational needs of children in the Western Cape, where JAM has partnered with the Foundation for Community Work (FCW) to target children in the communities of Klipmuts, Paarl and Oudtshoorn. These communities, in addition to not having access to ECD centres, reportedly have high rates of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorders (FASD).

While JAM SA provides a nutritious breakfast meal to **1 200** children across these three communities, FCW facilitates educational activities. This intervention is also likely to have prevented the children from being recruited into gangsterism by providing a safe haven where they can learn and play.

JAM’s activities toward promoting community agriculture continue around the country with many school gardens being able to harvest vegetables and we continue to carry out **WASH** programming interventions at ECD centres, reaching both children and teachers.

SOUTH SUDAN

One of JAM South Sudan’s strategic outcomes is to enhance income security for women and youth in rural, semi-urban and urban areas. We enlisted the assistance of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Government of Japan to support and promote decent work and the agribusiness enterprises of youth and women in Juba. Towards this goal, the country office launched a dedicated project named: *Promoting Employment Opportunities and Agripreneurship among youth and women in Juba South Sudan*.

The project targets about **300** households in total. The beneficiaries enrolled are organised around, and operate in, five agro-enterprise groups.

Cash transfers have been delivered to **68 522** people in Aweil and Gogrial West counties, since the beginning of 2021, as part of a Cash-For-Assets (CFA) project. These are projects where people are paid to build assets for their communities. So far, they have cultivated about **4 760** hectares and planted a diverse set of crops including sorghum, groundnuts and sesame. This cultivation will boost food production for the participating households. The CFA beneficiaries also constructed **31** shallow wells and six multipurpose ponds, improving access to water supply for domestic use, livestock watering and gardening. Through this project, **39.86km** of community access roads were constructed and **16.91km** of flood dykes that improve rural connectivity as well as control flood water and prevent flood-related damage.

JAM further assisted beneficiaries with farming implements and artisans with blacksmith kits to improve local production and access to farm tools. These interventions will expand access to irrigation (using solar pumps), improve postharvest management, and improve the transportation of agricultural products to the market.

The **education** programming undertaken during the fourth quarter of 2021 was aimed at bolstering the efficacy of JAM’s WFP-supported school feeding programme. Activities completed include constructing beneficiary sheds at **11** food distribution points, equipping **21** schools with energy-saving stoves and supplying JAM Red Bowls for serving food to **45 270** pupils.

JAM’s **health and nutrition** programme aims at providing dignified life-saving interventions to reduce the rate of mortality among vulnerable children, women, elders and disabled people suffering from malnutrition. JAM manages **37** stationary nutrition facilities with four outreach sites across the eight payams (administrative districts) of Piibor County to screen and treat acute malnutrition among these groups.

The programme supports the integration of malaria screening and treatment for children with severe acute malnutrition. Screening is especially important in children aged 6-59 months where a dearth of health services mean they would be more likely to succumb to complications from infection without the necessary help.

We delivered these services to **137 415** people, **2 188** children 6-59 months were screened for malaria of which **237** had to be treated. Additionally, **37 248** children received vitamin A supplements for the prevention of night blindness, diseases and improvement of growth, while **43 701** received Albendazole tablets for protection against helminths (worms).

Moreover, **1 034** of the **13 976** pregnant and lactating women screened for malnutrition received treatment for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) through a targeted supplementary feeding programme. This effort has the result of securing the wellbeing of infants in their first **1 000** days of life.

JAM South Sudan also undertook behaviour change communication among **9 139** caregivers. This effort secures their wellbeing using Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition promotional activities, counselling, and events for malnutrition prevention.

UGANDA

During the fourth quarter of 2021, JAM successfully supported **15 521** beneficiaries in Uganda with various interventions, though mainly in **health and nutrition, food security and livelihoods (FSL)** and **WASH**, at various refugee settlements. An important focus of our programming here is encouraging cooperation and peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities and organising activities that benefit both groups.

JAM continued to coach, train, mentor, and support Persons of Concern by working with our well-equipped Trainers of Trainers. JAM's field extension workers also supported by providing technical support to households and model farmers. When the government of Uganda relaxed social distancing restrictions, JAM could conduct training sessions with groups of at least **20** people.

Through a targeted WASH intervention, we reached approximately **4 600** beneficiaries. In particular, seven handwashing stations were installed at informal market areas and churches in Palorinya. JAM staff also conducted sensitisation and awareness sessions to promote non-medical practices proven to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and distributed masks. These sensitisation sessions were conducted in conjunction with community leaders such as Refugee Welfare Councils and local council leaders.

In the reporting period, JAM Uganda was able to support **10 921** beneficiaries with FSL interventions centred around vegetable and selected field crop production. The beneficiaries are mainly mothers drawn from both refugees and the host communities.

Having managed to plant **289** acres of vegetable and field crops in the second rainy season, we recently obtained **15** more acres on which to pilot dry season vegetable farming.

Due to the availability of surface water and the help of treadle and solar irrigation pumps, this new intervention has, so far, been successful. Currently, onions, eggplants, cabbage, and tomatoes have been planted across the settlements of Imvepi, Palorinya, and Omugo.

Activities conducted as a part of FSL interventions include training on harvesting, post-harvest handling practices and supporting pregnant and breastfeeding women by transplanting dry season vegetables in their communal gardens. We also planted cowpeas at the reception centres and health facilities to supplement the hot meals given to newly arriving refugees.

Moreover, JAM provided agricultural production training to women at protection houses and established communal nursery beds for them.

While other field crops have been harvested, JAM has been undertaking other agronomic field practices to maintain the quality of this land. In particular, we undertook weeding; pest and disease control through organic and synthetic pesticides and fungicides; training sessions on Climate Smart Agriculture; and training sessions on good agronomic practices.

The vegetables currently harvested include sesame, maize, groundnuts, sorghum, and cowpeas. Yield data collection on this harvest is still ongoing. We aim to assess the productivity of this harvest by comparing the inputs distributed against the acreage planted, and the yield.

CHALLENGES

MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique is experiencing a fourth wave of COVID-19, with the Omicron variant responsible for most of the new infections. The resultant government restrictions put in place to curb the spread of new infections affected the resumption of classes on January 31. Climate change continues to be a huge concern across the country with the risk of cyclones and flooding heightened. This continues to put at risk communities that have already been devastated by previous cyclones. In the north, displacements are expected to continue as combat activities increase between the government and its regional allies on one hand, and local armed groups on the other hand. The conflict continues to affect the ability of humanitarian actors to reach those affected and displaced.

SOUTH SUDAN

Flooding, violence and COVID-19 continued to drive people's need for humanitarian intervention in December 2021. Approximately **835 000** people have reportedly been affected by floods since May. Many flood-affected people remain displaced and continue to need humanitarian assistance. Unity State and Warrap State were the worst affected areas across JAM's intervention sites. Homesteads and cropland were submerged by flood water.

In Pibor County, the local youth rioted in demand for jobs in humanitarian organisations. This caused the suspension of operations by all humanitarian agencies in the area for nearly six weeks. The stalemate was later resolved after negotiations among the local youth, local government and the humanitarian organisations.

UGANDA

Our team in Uganda had to find innovative ways to overcome the statutory regulations put in place to curb the spread of COVID-19. Due to the social distancing guidelines provided, JAM Uganda could not easily prepare training sessions for its FSL beneficiaries. In response to this challenge, the country office enlisted Trainers of Trainers to work with Community Extension Workers so as to reach Persons of Concern.

SIERRA LEONE

Failure to receive funding and theft of assets has forced JAM to exit Sierra Leone.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

SOUTH SUDAN BUSINESS CAN GROW WHEN CHILDREN ARE FED

Bero Laku is a young boy being raised, along with his five siblings, by his mother Lilian Doki. Before JAM began assisting this family, Lilian struggled to provide food for her children when they needed it. Bero and his siblings would sometimes wait the whole day for food because Lilian was at the market selling her vegetables and coal.

"When my school closed, I felt bad. I missed my friends and also I knew I was not going to have my meals on time because, at home, we eat late," said Bero.

So, he was very relieved to receive take-home MannaPack rations through JAM South Sudan's school feeding programme at Bori Primary School. Bero, who is a shy boy, says: *"On a day when we are going to eat rice,*

my mother tells my sister to prepare the food before she goes to the market. We do not have to wait for her to sell her vegetables first."

Lilian adds that the supplementary food ration provided by JAM has also helped her to save enough money to diversify and grow her business: *"When we get the rice, I don't have to buy food every day. So I have saved some money and improved my charcoal selling business from a few tins to a sack."*

Lilian is very grateful. She says that it has been a weight off her shoulders to know that her children will have food to eat while she is at work.



MOZAMBIQUE NEW LATRINES RESTORE DIGNITY OF DISPLACED PEOPLE

Before armed conflict broke out in Mozambique's north-eastern province of Cabo Delgado, 62-year-old Damião André was ageing comfortably in his home, surrounded by his growing family of 12 children and grandchildren.

Before it became a war-zone, they called Muambala their home, and they could not bear to leave. This is why they withstood the ongoing violence for three years before they fled, but in 2020, Damião's daughter and grandson were abducted by terrorists.

He decided to join thousands of fellow Mozambicans leaving for Montepuez every week. Despite being Cabo Delgado's second most populous city, Montepuez is seen as a safe haven, away from the violence. The Ntele resettlement centre has been erected in the Mapupulo area, 18km from the city centre. It is one of about 13 resettlement sites for internally displaced people in Mozambique.

Despite being a refuge for people, Ntele lacked safe sanitation facilities.

Damião said this left him feeling ashamed and worried for the safety of his children and grandchildren.

"When we arrived the situation was bad, with the lack of toilets, we had to use the forest, and this was embarrassing and not safe, especially for women and children. The few latrines that existed collapsed due to the rains and before the construction of the improved ones, the situation became dire as there was an outbreak of diarrhoeal disease."

Through a specific WASH programme, JAM distributed specially crafted concrete slabs to displaced families so that they could erect their own toilet areas. They also assisted people build thatched walls around these for privacy.

Tippy Taps were assembled and now complement JAM's educational messages about sanitation and family hygiene.



ANGOLA BABY AVELINO BEATS MALNUTRITION



One-year-old Avelino Katende lives with his grandmother Cecilia Mariana in the Benguela province of Angola. His mother died when he was only two weeks old and he did not receive the essential nutrition that breast milk provides, especially in the first few months of life.

Avelino's mother had suffered postpartum complications and malaria. When Avelino was admitted to the municipal hospital of Bocoio, he was diagnosed with complicated malaria, severe anaemia, acute diarrhoeal disease, and marasmus — a severe form of protein-energy malnutrition.

He was immediately enrolled into the JAM programme and started to receive Nutriset's F75 and F100 therapeutic milks. After a few days of this treatment, Cecilia could see her grandson recovering. He is now a healthy little boy and Cecilia is unable to hide her happiness.

"Thanks to JAM and the nurses, my grandson has recovered today and I will do everything to protect him and prevent him from falling back into malnutrition and malaria. I ask JAM to continue with this gesture because there are many needy people who miss it [malnutrition], but you have managed to do something. I don't work and I don't know how I would have managed to take care of this baby when he was very sick; I still don't know the whereabouts of the father. Twapandula [thank you]!" she says with a smile.

UGANDA KITCHEN GARDENING FOR MATERNAL HEALTH

Two years ago, JAM Uganda sought permission from the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) to use vegetable gardening to supplement the hot meals provided by WFP to refugees. The OPM, through the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), allocated a piece of land to JAM at the Kuluba Collection Centre. This new piece of land allowed JAM to build on its earlier success at the Imvepi Reception Centre.

Refugees often have to survive for long periods without food during their journeys and are therefore predisposed to health issues, such as malnutrition. Supplementing their hot meals with vitamin and mineral-rich foods helps them recover from the shocks and stresses of prolonged hunger. But JAM's focus is also on assisting those in the host community.

Chandiru Lucy, a 27-year-old Ugandan woman, is one of the happy co-beneficiaries of the garden. She lives in Kuluba with her family of nine. As she is seven months pregnant, she attends antenatal check-ups at Kuluba

Health Centre which is a stone's throw away from the refugee collection centre. She has been able to supplement her diet with vegetables from JAM's garden and has also been able to grow her own.

"Pregnant mothers are encouraged to eat vitamin and mineral-rich foods for our health and the health of our babies. JAM made this simpler for me, because every time I came for my check up I would go back home with either cowpeas or amaranthus or eggplants or kales or tomatoes."

"Additionally, I was able to grow some of the vegetables and sell the excess. The money I made will be used to rent land along the wetland for off-season farming."

"I have been strong throughout my pregnancy because of nutritious feeding. And the glow on my face would be recognised from a distance!" she says happily. She hopes JAM will continue to help others in her community too.

