

## Agriculture and Nutrition Programme – Background information

This QuIP study was commissioned by Organisation 1 to evaluate their large scale ‘**Agriculture and Nutrition Programme**’ in Country X.

Organisation 1 implemented the programme in partnership with Organisation 2, alongside provincial/district Health and Agricultural officers.

### Programme interventions included:

- **WASH & Nutrition:** Mothers were given advice on family nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) behaviours. Training involved regular **group meetings** with caregivers to discuss infant and young child feeding practices as well as nutritional advice for pregnant and/or breastfeeding mothers. In these group meetings ‘**mother’s group**’ also conducted **cooking demonstrations** and provided opportunities to discuss any difficulties in adopting the practices. Some households, particularly those that needed extra support, were also provided with individual visits at home.
- **Agriculture:** Farmers were invited into groups and encouraged to participate in **farmer field schools** where they received agriculture and livestock training along with access to sweet potato and vegetable seeds. Please note that in the time leading up to the QuIP study, extreme weather events badly affected farming yields in some areas.
- **Financial services:** Organisations 1 and 2 supported and promoted **Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs)** whereby members could save on a fortnightly cycle. Members could also borrow from the group. The VSLA meetings were also an opportunity to discuss a wide range of topics from household money management to business opportunities.
- **Gender:** Gender **dialogue groups** were hosted with couples who were interested in the issues. Some of the graduating couples then become **gender champions** in their community. Community and religious leaders were also trained on gender issues with the aim of creating a supportive environment for gender equality transformation.

The communities sampled were purposefully selected based on the length of project implementation, the number of project components started, and the diversity of geographic locations.

Households with children under 5 years old				
Province	District	Community	Gender	Total
A	District 1	Community 1	7 women + 5 men	12
	District 2	Community 2	7 women + 5 men	12
B	District 3	Community 3	7 women + 5 men	12
	District 4	Community 4	7 women + 5 men	12

The recall period was set as a year and a half.