



**Helen Keller**  
INTERNATIONAL

# **HKI'S ORANGE FLESHED SWEET POTATO DELIVERY IN AFRICA**

Mette Kinoti, Vice President Africa region

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# OVERVIEW PRESENTATION



- Introducing Helen Keller International
- Enhanced Homestead Food Production (EHFP) and OFSP
- CHANGE – an example
- Lessons learned



# Helen Keller International



## **Mission:**

Helen Keller International is dedicated to saving the sight and lives of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged

- combat the causes and consequences of blindness and malnutrition by establishing programs based on evidence and research in vision, health and nutrition



“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

Helen Keller

# Enhanced homestead food production approach

Developed by HKI and partners in Asia and Africa



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**Ultimate goal:** Improve the nutritional status of children under 5 years of age, women in their reproductive age, breastfeeding and pregnant women

## ***Agriculture for nutrition***

- Focus on women & children, women primary beneficiaries, gender mainstreaming
- Diverse and nutritious crop production
- Animal production
- Essential Nutrition Actions and Essential Hygiene Actions framework




# OFSP and other micronutrient-rich foods





Foods	Calories (kcal)	Vit A (RAE)	Vit C (mg)	Folate (µg)	Iron (mg)	Zinc (mg)
Rice	365	0	0	8	0.8	1.09
OFSP	378	709	19.6	6	0.69	0.32
Liver (chicken)	119	4968	17.9	588	8.99	2.67
Spinach	23	469	28.1	194	2.71	0.53
Egg	143	540	0	47	1.75	1.29
Orange	49	12	48.5	39	0.09	0.06
Cowpea	336	50	1.5	633	8.27	3.37
<b>RDA/AI</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>

Nutrient contents based on 100 g of food (raw), RDA/AI based on daily needs of adult male

 Staple with high energy content (many calories)

 ≥20-50% RDA

 >50-80% RDA

 >80% RDA

# HKI's efforts in OFSP delivery (accumulated figures, excluding RAC)



Country (Funding)	Since	Varieties promoted	Vines distributed	Direct beneficiaries	Indirect beneficiaries
Burkina Faso (McKnight, USAID, DFATD, Cargill)	2001	Jewel, caromex, Tiebile etc.	175,314	4,446	33,922
Mozambique (Irish Aid)	2012	Delfia, Melinda, Irene, Gloria, Linda	163,350	1,320	22,869
Côte d'Ivoire (DFATD)	2014	Kakamega, TIB, Bela-Bela	450,000	2,876	21,084
Tanzania (Irish Aid, DFATD)	2010	Jewel, Kabode, Ejumula	141,000	2,569	18,130
Nigeria (Gov. of Nigeria)	2014	Mothers' delight, King J	186,000	1,020	7,140
Senegal (DFATD)	2013	Kandee	820	130	1,330
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,116,484</b>	<b>12,361</b>	<b>104,475</b>

# Creating Homestead Agriculture for Nutrition and Gender Equity (multi-country EHFP project)



## Objectives

- Improve nutritional status of women and children under 2 years of age
- Women's empowerment

## Partners

- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)
- Ministries (Ag, Health etc.)
- NGO's, Private sector

## Components

- Nutritious crop production
- Poultry production
- Gender transformative approach
- SBCC in Nutrition and WASH
- Village model farms (VMFs)

## Countries

- Burkina Faso, Tanzania (focus nutrition research)
- Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal (focus gender research)

**All promote OFSP as one of several nutritious crops**

# BURKINA FASO



- OFSP varieties tested with CIP and INERA
- Vine production: village model farms / producers / schools
- Yield: 7-12 t/ha, ~43 kg of OFSP per beneficiary
- 11% of women consumed OFSP in last 24 hours (July 2015, 3-4 months from new harvest)
- Strong indications that SBCC is increasing consumption of OFSP and nutrient rich foods in general (WDD from 3 to 6)





# CÔTE D'IVOIRE



- Working with national agriculture research institute related to vine production
- Evidence of OFSP spread to neighboring villages
- 42 VMFs are producing OFSP vines for re-distribution in 2015
- Productivity: 15-25 t/ha (at VMF level), >50 kg per beneficiary per year
- 22% of women consumed OFSP in the last 24 hours (July 2015, 3 months before new OFSP is harvested)
- Nurturing Connection change gender roles



# Successes and lessons learnt from OFSP delivery efforts



## Successes

- Combination of Nutrition education, testing and demonstrations encourage adoption
- SBCC facilitate adoption
- Taste much appreciated by children, sometimes less by adults

## Constraints

- Access to land for women
- Late distribution of vines → late planting → low or no yield
- Livestock loves sweet potato leaves → damage in many instances
- Limited documentation of adoption and spread

## Recommendations

More focus on local awareness raising (cooking demos etc.)

Envisage irrigated vine production for early start

Improve documentation (adoption, yield, consumption, sale)



**Djeure Djef, Ini tse, Barka, Asante  
sana**

**Thank you, Merci, Obrigado**



*“One can never consent to creep when one feels the impulse to soar.”*