# Digital technology to promote inclusion and quality nutrition care for children with disabilities

**UNSCN45 Webinar Series – Nutrition in a Digital World**
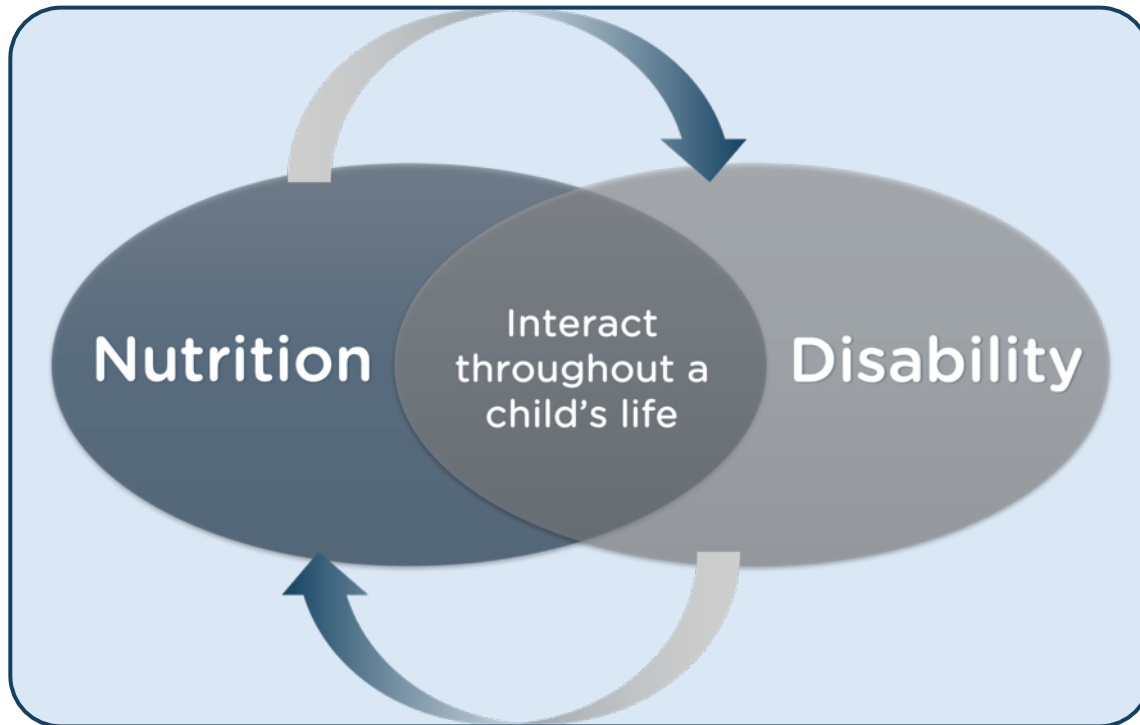
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There are 291 million children and adolescents with developmental disabilities worldwide.

Olusanya et al, Pediatrics 2020

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# Children living with disabilities face many barriers.

- Stigma

- Restricted access to mainstream nutrition services

- Low availability of disability-specific services

- Lack of data and accountability

- A policy environment that does not ensure their right to thrive

# Children with disabilities are highly vulnerable to malnutrition.

Adapted from Groce et al, 2014

- Children with disabilities are three times more likely to be malnourished and twice as likely to die from malnutrition.

- Up to 85% of children with developmental disabilities experience feeding difficulties.

# Intersection of nutrition, disability, and technology
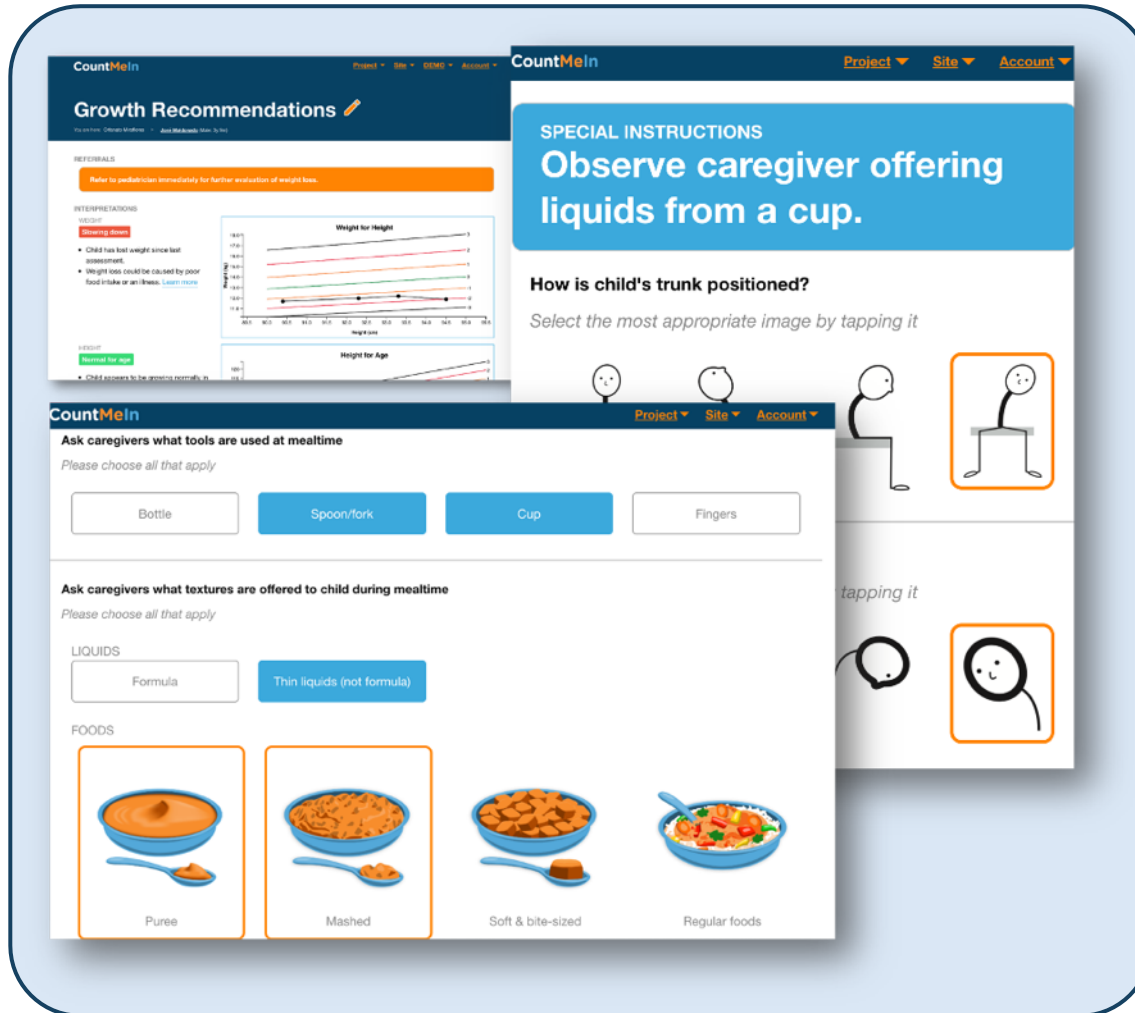
Two important trends in the SDG era:

- increased focus on 'leave no one behind'

- increased use of digital technology to achieve SDG targets

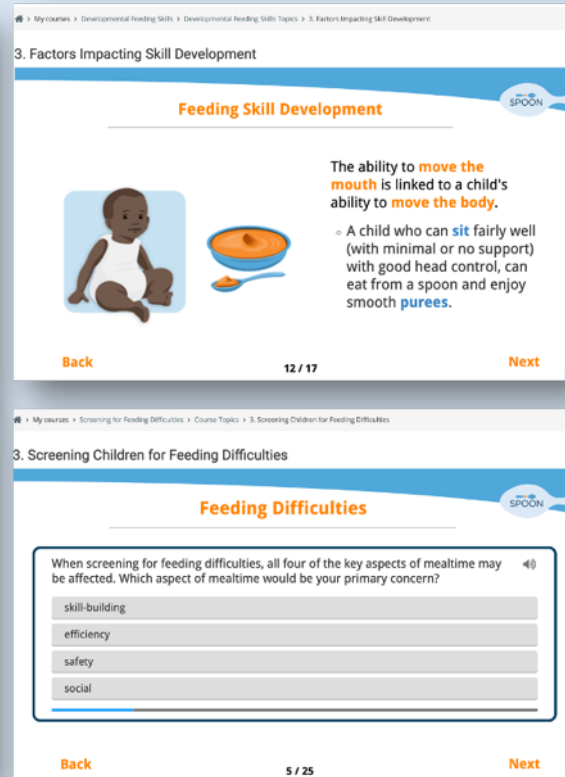How much have these come together for children with disabilities?

# mHealth strengthens healthcare delivery for children with disabilities



*Count Me In* facilitates:

- Simple clinical tasks
- Individualized care plans
- Data-based clinical decision making
- Training support
- Real-time data and reporting

www.spoonfoundation.org/count-me-in

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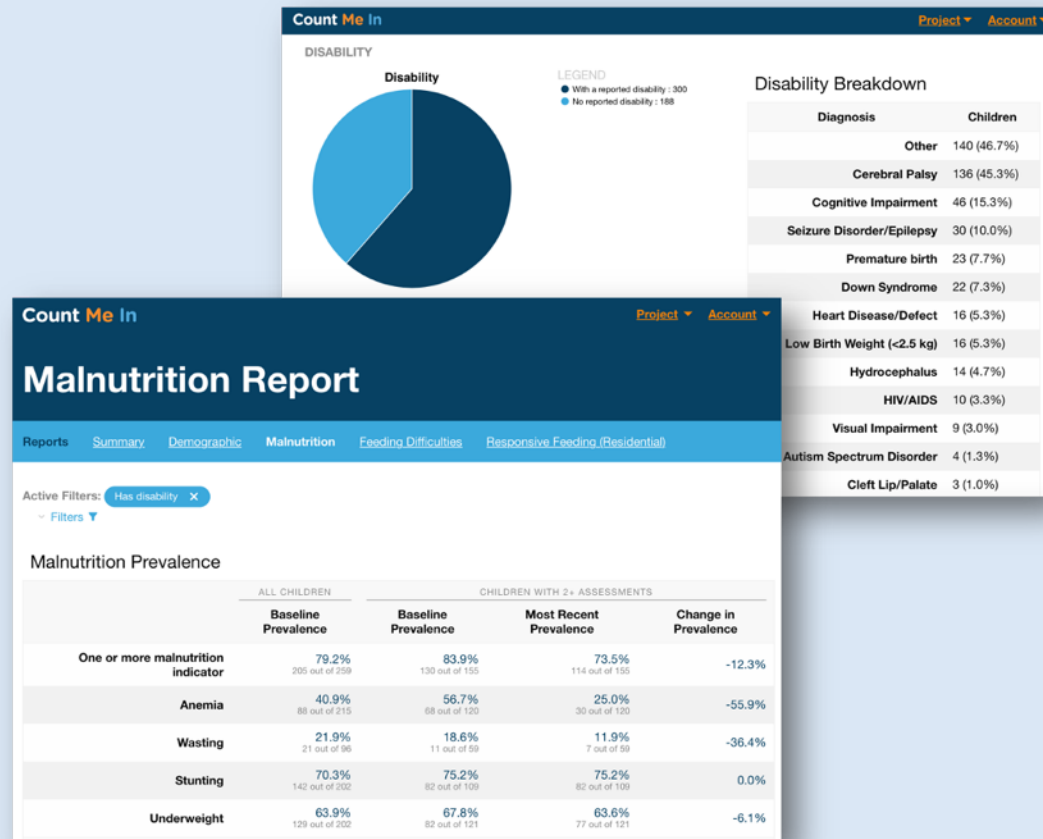# eLearning fills the knowledge and skill gaps of the existing workforce



We strive for:

- Foundational knowledge for a wide audience
- Hands-on practice
- Flexible delivery model
- Multi-sector collaboration
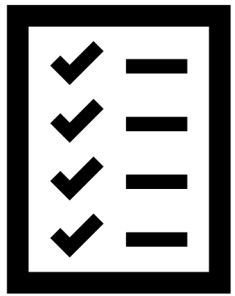- Do-no-harm approach

# mHealth and eLearning fill data and evidence gaps



Data can be used for:
- Understanding equity gaps
- Program planning
- Resource allocation
- Setting realistic targets
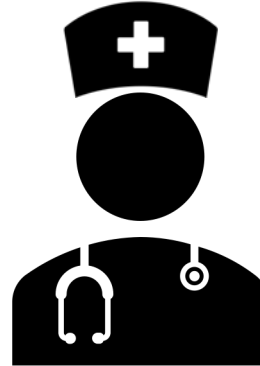- Measuring progress
- Advocacy
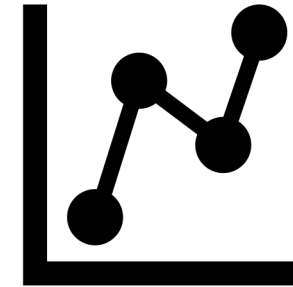
# Technology success depends on

Policy

Investment

Workforce & services

Data & accountability

## ... and equity in all areas

Thank you.

www.spoonfoundation.org

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