Dinéria’s Story: A Masungukate helps a child overcome malnutrition

Written by Pedro Maunde

“I asked Sungukate Alzira to support me visiting a caregiver and her child. We discovered that the child was undernourished, not having appropriate weight for her age, did not play and her belly was large.” - Sungukate Floriana

“Sungukate Floriana informed me that a young child aged 3 living in Mbanguine A was undernourished and that she had referred the caregiver to the Health Center in Funhalouro. The nurse who examined the child said she was indeed undernourished. The child was immediately placed on a supplementary feeding program run by INAS¹.” - Mutuque, ECD Community Facilitator, AJEPROJ

Dinéria Mazive is 3 years old. She lives with her mother, Ticelina at her uncle’s home in Mbanguine A, Funhalouro district. Her mother became pregnant at 16 and Dinéria was born HIV-positive. When Sungukate Floriana from the local AJEPROJ ECD project supported by CARE started her home visits she soon realized that Dinéria was undernourished. She knew the child needed to be referred for supplementary feeding. But to access this the mother and child needed formal registration documents - something neither had.

¹ Social Welfare Protection Scheme
With help from Community Facilitator, Mutuque from AJEPROJ, Sungukate Floriana managed to get the community leader to apply for immediate supplementary feeding for child while the registration documents were applied for.

Dinéria is now receiving “Plumpy nut”, an enriched porridge provided by the government social action program (INAS). In the last joint visit between CARE, AJEPROJ and INAS, held in May 2015 we recorded an improvement in little Dinéria’s weight. Her mother is also playing with her and interacting with her more. Follow-up will need to made as the birth records for the mother and child have not yet been processed, Dinéria’s health will need monitoring and Ticelina needs ongoing support with issues such as her own health and family planning.

“My daughter now is playing and smiles, I usually play with her… I can say that now she is already saved, I am doing all that Sungukate is telling me” - Ticelina, Dinéria’s mother