

2015 RESULTS OVERVIEW

In his 2009 inaugural address, President Obama promised that the United States would work along the people of poor nations to make farms flourish, nourish starved bodies, and feed hungry minds. Since then, Feed the Future, his global hunger and food security initiative, and other U.S. Government contributions have mobilized billions of dollars in direct assistance and private resources to deliver on that promise by unlocking the transformative potential in agriculture to connect more people to the global economy and pave a path out of poverty.

Building on the standard set by the African Union when its members committed to developing comprehensive food security plans, and working together with host country governments, the private sector, researchers, civil society, and development organizations, Feed the Future has pioneered a comprehensive, global response to fight hunger, poverty, and malnutrition. With an emphasis on smallholder farmers – particularly women – as the backbone of rural economies, Feed the Future supports 19 focus countries, along with aligned and regional programs, that are making progress toward sustainably developing their own agriculture sectors as a catalyst to economic growth and trade to reduce poverty and hunger.

In countries supported by Feed the Future and other large-scale U.S. Government efforts, local capacity to support food security, agricultural productivity and good nutrition continue to grow stronger. Feed the Future assistance or training reached nearly 19 million households, and helped nearly 7 million farmers gain access to new – and many climate-smart – tools or technologies such as high-yielding seeds, fertilizer application, soil conservation, and water management. These and other interventions helped Feed the Future-supported farmers experience more than half a billion dollars in new agricultural sales in FY2014. In addition, Feed the Future helped train nearly 1.5 million people in child health and nutrition, and reached more than 12 million children with nutrition interventions.

New data featured in the 2015 Feed the Future progress report summary suggest that Feed the Future and other U.S. Government-led efforts, in partnership with host country governments and other development partners, are contributing to substantial reductions in both poverty and malnutrition – specifically childhood stunting, which can rob children of their potential to grow and thrive.

In Africa, Feed the Future and other U.S. Government efforts contributed to the following impacts:

- **Ethiopia** evidenced a 9% reduction in stunting nationally between 2011 and 2014.
- **Kenya** saw a more than 25% reduction in stunting in the areas of the former Eastern and Nyanza provinces, where Feed the Future programs have been concentrated, from 2009 to 2014.
- In **Uganda**, data show a 16% decrease in poverty in rural areas, including where Feed the Future works, between 2009-2010 to 2012-2013. National poverty levels also declined from 24.5% in 2009-2010 to 19.7% in 2012-2013.
- **Ghana** experienced a 33% decline in stunting nationally between 2008 and 2014.

In Asia and Latin America, Feed the Future and other U.S. Government efforts contributed to the following impacts:

- In **Bangladesh**, there was a 14.4% reduction in childhood stunting from 2011 to 2014 across the two major divisions (regions) where Feed the Future programs are concentrated. And, according to preliminary estimates, Bangladesh has experienced a nearly 16% reduction in poverty in areas where Feed the Future works between 2011 and early 2015.
- In **Cambodia**, data show a 21% reduction in childhood stunting from 2010 to 2014 in the Feed the Future zone of influence.
- In **Honduras**, Feed the Future beneficiaries experienced average income increases of 55% between 2012 and 2014. This helped nearly 27% of the more than 135,000 extremely poor beneficiaries to rise above the \$1.25 per person per day extreme poverty threshold. The extremely poor are less poor, with incomes increasing by an average of 95%, from \$0.62 to \$1.21 per person/day.

Did You Know?

- Growth in the agricultural sector is, on average, at least twice as effective at reducing poverty as growth in other sectors.
- 75 percent of the world's poor live in rural areas in developing countries, where most of people's livelihoods rely directly on agriculture.
- The population is growing, and projected to reach nine billion by 2050, which will require at least a 60 percent increase in agricultural production.

Leadership and Partnership to Feed the Future

For generations, the United States has been a leader in providing development assistance across the globe to alleviate suffering and build shared progress and prosperity. Led by USAID, Feed the Future leverages the expertise and programs of 10 additional U.S. Government departments and agencies to work in partnership with host-country governments, businesses, smallholder farmers, U.S. universities, research institutions and civil society organizations to promote a comprehensive approach to global food security and nutrition.

At the 2009 G8 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy, President Obama called on global leaders to reverse a three-decade decline in agricultural investment. He also announced increased U.S. investment in global food security. This U.S. commitment helped to leverage more than \$18 billion from other countries and donors, and built on the resources that the United States allocated during the Bush Administration through the Initiative to End Hunger in Africa for a near and longer-term response to the food price spikes that focused on boosting agricultural productivity, strengthening supply chains, and promoting sound market-based principles for agriculture sector development and regional trade.

In 2012, recognizing the critical role of the private sector in sustainable agricultural transformation and innovative approaches, President Obama, African leaders and other G-8 members announced the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition to significantly expand inclusive, responsible private-sector engagement in African agriculture and nutrition. More than 200 global and African companies have committed to invest \$10.2 billion to benefit 8.7 million smallholders through sourcing or services, with \$1.8 billion invested through 2014. Feed the Future is the primary vehicle through which the U.S. Government contributes to the New Alliance.

An Urgent Need to Sustain Momentum

Natural resources are limited, and threats like climate change are already making an impact that cannot be ignored. The recent Ebola crisis emphasized the urgent need to continue to work toward eliminating extreme poverty and chronic hunger, which are key drivers of such crises. Poverty can allow a single case to become an outbreak and turn an outbreak into an epidemic. Long-term food security is essential to combat poverty, build long-term stability and security, and mitigate the impacts of future crises.

Momentum to achieve the long-term vision of Feed the Future – a world where the scourge of hunger, poverty, and malnutrition no longer threaten the peace and prosperity of millions – is strong. And while the number people who go to bed hungry every night – 795 million – has dropped by 100 million in the last decade, due in large part to leadership and coordinated efforts around the world to fight hunger, the global community must remain committed to ensuring that progress toward the Millennium Development Goals sustains through achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.