



RWANDA Fact Sheet

Feed the Future, the U.S. government's global hunger and food security initiative, is a \$3.5 billion commitment to support country-driven approaches to address the root causes of poverty, hunger and undernutrition. A whole-of-government initiative led by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Feed the Future leverages the strengths of multilateral institutions, civil society and the private sector. Globally we aim to assist 18 million vulnerable women, children, and family members – mostly smallholder farmers – escape hunger and poverty. Together, we will increase agricultural productivity, decrease poverty, drive economic growth, and reduce undernutrition to improve millions of lives.

Rwanda has made remarkable progress since the tragedy of the 1994 genocide, enjoying strong economic growth rates, creating new business opportunities and lifting people out of poverty. The country has seen average annual growth in incomes of nearly six percent over the past five years. Yet Rwanda—a small, landlocked

country with the highest population density in Sub-Saharan Africa—remains one of the world's poorest countries. Nearly 60% of the population lives below the poverty line, with almost 40% living in extreme poverty on less than \$0.90 per day.

Agriculture is the foundation of the Rwandan economy, accounting for one-third of GDP and employing nearly 80% of the labor force. However, agricultural productivity in Rwanda is extremely low. The vast majority of farmers practice subsistence farming on small, hilly plots. Due to erosion and poor soil fertility practices, up to half of the country's land is severely degraded. In addition, the use of improved seeds, pesticides and fertilizers remains limited.

In part due to low agricultural productivity, nearly half of all Rwandan agricultural households experience food insecurity. Among rural children under five years of age, chronic (stunting) and acute (wasting) undernutrition remain persistent at over 44% and 3%, respectively. These children will suffer negative impacts their entire lives, as undernutrition impairs brain development and worsens health outcomes. Although increasing agricultural productivity will be necessary to address food insecurity, feeding practices, household vulnerabilities and access to health care must also be addressed for a comprehensive and sustainable solution to livelihood security.

- Rwanda has a population of just over 10 million
- Rwanda is the most densely populated country in Sub-Saharan Africa
- GDP growth of 6.5% in 2010
- Agriculture contributes about 33% of GDP and employs 80% of the labor force
- 57% of Rwandans live below the poverty line and 37% live in extreme poverty
- 44% of children <5 suffer from stunting and 3% suffer from wasting

Rwanda's sound policy environment, solid growth record and macroeconomic stability provide a solid foundation for Feed the Future implementation. Rwanda has committed itself to generating sustained agricultural growth, including increasing the share of the national budget allocated to agriculture from just three percent in 2006 to seven percent in 2010. Rwanda's investments appear to be paying off. Since 2007, annual agriculture growth has averaged over six percent.

Rwanda has demonstrated the same level of commitment to tackling undernutrition, putting nutrition squarely on the national development agenda by launching the Emergency Plan to Fight Malnutrition, and screening 1.1 million children under five for malnutrition and treating over 77,000 cases. Additionally, Rwanda developed a national strategy addressing pre and postnatal care to reduce all forms of malnutrition by 30% by 2013. This strategy focuses principally on the 1,000 day window during pregnancy and the first two years of childhood, an important part of our Feed The Future initiative.

Rwanda is receiving \$50 million dollars from the World Bank managed Global Agriculture & Food Security Program, to increase productivity and commercialization of hillside agriculture through research and extension, water and land management, stronger agricultural value chains and expanded access to finance.

Our collective efforts aim to improve the livelihood and nutritional status of households in Rwanda through:

- Inclusive agriculture sector growth
- Improved nutritional status, especially of women and children

Feed the Future is working throughout the country.



FEED THE FUTURE: IMPACT IN RWANDA

Over the next five years,

- Assist more than 700,000 vulnerable Rwandan women, children, and family members – mostly smallholder farmers – to escape hunger and poverty.
- Reach nearly 190,000 children, improving their nutrition to prevent stunting and child mortality.
- Significant numbers of additional rural populations will achieve improved income and nutritional status from strategic policy engagement and institutional investments.

CORE INVESTMENTS

U.S. efforts in selected value chains — beans, maize, and dairy — will be developed through the core investment areas of sustainable market linkages, infrastructure, and nutrition to maximize impact. Concentrating resources, fostering political engagement, linking agriculture to nutrition and supporting gender equality are critical investments to successfully improve food security throughout Rwanda. In addition, limited investments will be made in two traditional high-value exports: coffee and pyrethrum.

Sustainable Market Linkages

Feed the Future supports Rwanda's plan to gradually privatize its fertilizer market and complements efforts to ensure the timely provision of inputs to farmers. Our programs facilitate farmer adoption of improved post-harvest practices and technologies throughout the value chains of beans, maize, and dairy. Building on investments made to improve the quality of milk, USAID will support the competitiveness of Rwandan Dairy Sector. To improve access to financial services in the agriculture sector, we will co-finance programs to facilitate the expansion of financial services to the poor and microenterprises, which are complemented by USAID loan guarantees with local financial institutions to encourage lending. In addition, limited assistance for the development of high-value crops will cement the sustainability of U.S. investments in the coffee sector and support the diversification of Rwanda's exports through investments in pyrethrum.

Infrastructure

A variety of investments supports the development of priority value chains and ensures that food security benefits are maximized. As significant agricultural income is lost due to inadequate rural roads, Feed the Future will rehabilitate feeder roads in selected districts. Investments in small-scale irrigation and integrated water resources management will improve the sustainable management of water positively impacting human health, food security and resiliency to climate change. Furthermore, a \$50 million grant from the Global Agriculture Food Security Trust Fund, managed by the World Bank, will support collaborative efforts between USAID/Rwanda and various multilateral and bilateral organizations in the development of a land husbandry, water harvesting and hillside irrigation project to maximize the land area available for cultivation.

Nutrition

Feed the Future planned value chain investments will be designed to ensure their nutritional benefits are maximized. For

example, increasing post-harvest investments at the household level, targeting women with livelihoods programs and improving access to finance are expected to contribute to maintaining basic food security and nutrition. However, achieving the Feed the Future nutrition objective in Rwanda will require additional investments beyond those integrated in the priority value chains. Our assistance will strengthen and scale up community-based nutrition programs to prevent undernutrition in children under five, pregnant women and lactating mothers. We will also support food fortification efforts to eliminate micronutrient deficiencies. Lastly, we will build the capacity of the Rwandan Government to develop and implement multi-sectoral nutrition plans and to formulate behavior change nutrition messages, communication tools and training materials.

GENDER INTEGRATION

Gender is a cross-cutting issue for Feed the Future. Although Rwanda is justifiably recognized for the strong leadership role played by its women and its sound legal framework for protecting the principle of gender equality, significant gender disparities remain. To ensure that programs are sensitive to the underlying conditions that result in these disparities, Rwanda recently completed a gender strategy for the agriculture sector. While some investments will target women specifically, all will reflect the findings and recommendations of this gender strategy in their design.

WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH

Feed the Future elevates coordination across the U.S. Government so that our investments, resources and programs are harmonized for greater collective impact. This interagency engagement, led by USAID, includes collaboration with U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Treasury Department, Millennium Challenge Corporation, U.S. African Development Foundation, U.S. Trade Representative, Overseas Private Investment Corporation and Peace Corps. For example, USDA will focus on strengthening regional trading systems and agricultural research cooperation throughout East Africa.

USAID Agricultural and Nutrition Funding to Rwanda



*2012 is included in the President's budget request to Congress