



## ETHIOPIA FACT SHEET

Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative, is establishing a lasting foundation for progress against global hunger. With a focus on smallholder farmers, particularly women, Feed the Future supports partner countries in developing their agriculture sectors to spur economic growth that increases incomes and reduces hunger, poverty, and undernutrition. Feed the Future efforts are driven by country-led priorities and rooted in partnership with donor organizations, the private sector, and civil society to enable long-term success. Feed the Future aims to assist millions of vulnerable women, children, and family members to escape hunger and poverty, while also reaching significant numbers of children with highly effective nutrition interventions to prevent stunting and child mortality.

### Feed the Future in Ethiopia

With a population of over 80 million, Ethiopia is one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa. Exports, remittances, and foreign investments fell modestly during the 2008-2009 economic crisis, but have recovered and exceeded their pre-crisis level. Despite these gains, Ethiopia is among the poorest countries in the world, with a per capita GDP of \$471. Though poverty rates have fallen, 38.7 percent of the population still lives below the poverty line, and life expectancy at birth is only 54.7 years.

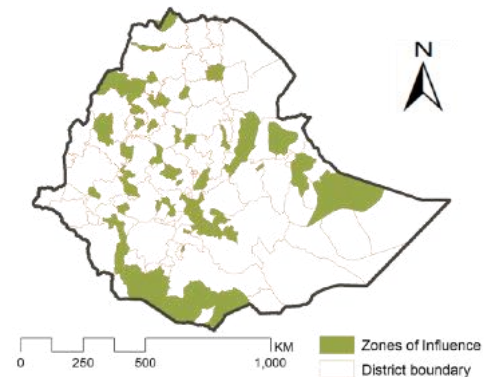
Ethiopia's economy is dependent on agriculture, which accounts for 46.6 percent of GDP and 90 percent of exports. However, challenges persist: smallholder crop yields are below regional averages; market linkages are weak; the use of improved seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides remains limited; and only six percent of cultivated land is currently under irrigation.

Undernutrition hampers both human and economic development. In Ethiopia, child undernutrition rates are among the highest in the world, and undernutrition contributes to 53 percent of infant and child deaths.

Feed the Future activities in Ethiopia develop the capacity of vulnerable and chronically food-insecure households to participate in economic activities. At the same time, the economic activities mobilize market-led agricultural growth to generate relevant economic opportunity and demand for smallholder production, labor, and services.

### Leading Agriculture-based Economic Growth

Through Feed the Future, the United States is supporting Ethiopia's own priorities for agriculture-based economic growth by strengthening strategic crop and livestock value chains, promoting private sector engagement, targeting relevant research and development efforts, and improving market activity.



### Feed the Future Focus

**Target Regions:** Amhara; Oromia; Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Region; Tigray; and Somali

**Value Chains:** Wheat, maize, coffee, chickpeas, sesame, livestock, dairy, and honey

**Objectives:** Create an enabling environment that supports increased investment and broad-based agricultural growth through improved productivity and commercialization; improved resilience to shocks and disasters with increased livelihood opportunities; and improved nutritional status of women and young children

Ethiopia is also one of the first African countries of the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, a commitment by G8 members, African countries, and private sector partners to reduce poverty through inclusive agricultural growth. Under the New Alliance, the Government of Ethiopia and G8 members have endorsed a country-specific Cooperation Framework, through which the Government of Ethiopia has committed to specific policy actions that will improve the environment for private investment in agriculture. At the same time, G8 donors have pledged to align funding behind the Cooperation Framework, and private sector partners have signed Letters of Intent detailing their plans for investing in Ethiopia's agriculture sector.

### **Targeting Vulnerable Populations**

This component of the Feed the Future strategy aims first to support the development of sustainable livelihoods among chronically food-insecure households in targeted districts; and second to create economic linkages between the food-insecure regions of Ethiopia and the more productive regions of the country.

Through these efforts, Feed the Future seeks to enable targeted populations to manage agricultural activity especially during droughts that are predictable. Through Feed the Future, the U.S. Government supports the Government of Ethiopia's Food Security Program, which addresses some of the root causes of widespread low agricultural productivity by using public works employment to rehabilitate degraded watersheds and restore essential vegetation.

### **Enabling Policy and Developing Capacity**

Feed the Future emphasizes capacity development, research, analysis and evaluation, and knowledge sharing in agricultural development, food security, nutrition, and climate change. In order to improve the ability of policymakers and stakeholders to implement or reform policies conducive to agricultural growth, Feed the Future conducts trainings and study tours for members of the public, private, and NGO sectors to expose them to best practices in policy making, and to empower policy makers to promote evidence-based policy reform.

## **Nutrition**

Although the Government of Ethiopia has made significant improvements in decreasing rates of stunting and child anemia over the past ten years, maternal, infant, and young child feeding practices remain a concern. Since 2008, the Government of Ethiopia has been implementing the National Nutrition Program (NNP) to respond to Ethiopia's high rates of undernutrition. Under Feed the Future, the U.S. Government is building upon prior nutrition investments to maximize impact on the nutritional status of Ethiopian households. In Fiscal Year 2012, the U.S. Government began a \$50.8 million, five-year flagship integrated nutrition program, in addition to integrating nutrition throughout agriculture and livelihoods programs. These programs support Ethiopia's NNP by developing capacity at the policy and implementation levels; improving education and training; supporting large-scale behavior change communication; and integrating nutrition with public-private partnerships.

## **Gender Integration**

Empowering rural women as food producers and managers of household nutrition is critical for inclusive economic growth in Ethiopia. Feed the Future activities in Ethiopia promote equitable decision making in managing household resources, provide training in literacy and numeracy, and engage women's advocacy groups in policy reform to ensure that the constraints experienced by women farmers are considered and addressed. Feed the Future-supported land certification programs are also leading to improved productivity and increased benefits for women.

### **Did You Know?**

- **More than 85%** of Ethiopia's workforce is employed in agriculture
  - **38.7%** of the population lives in poverty (under \$1.25/day)
    - **44%** of children under five are stunted