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# FEED THE FUTURE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE # 1

AUGUST 2011

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Feed the Future is the U.S. government global hunger and food security initiative.

Please visit [www.feedthefuture.gov](http://www.feedthefuture.gov) for more information.

## HIGHLIGHTS

*Hot Topics: Crisis in the Horn of Africa*

### Secretary Clinton on Food Security: Reducing Humanitarian Crises Requires Long-Term Solutions



*Photo Credit: Marty Katz*

In a speech at the International Food Policy Research Institute, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton emphasized the need for targeted investments in sustainable food security to stave off future humanitarian crises like the famine currently gripping the Horn of Africa. The Secretary described the U.S.'s ongoing response to the crisis in the Horn and explained how efforts like Feed the Future can help areas susceptible to drought avoid future food shortages. View [video](#) or read the [transcript](#).

### U.S. Delegation Visits Drought-Stricken Region

More than 12 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian aid, including food, water, and medical care, across the drought-stricken eastern Horn of Africa. Last week, Dr. Jill Biden, Special Assistant to the President, Gayle Smith, Senator Bill Frist, Assistant Secretary of State Eric Schwartz, and USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah traveled to Kenya to [view firsthand the situation on the ground](#). They visited the Dadaab Refugee Complex, where thousands of starving refugees have sought food, water, and

### What is Feed the Future?

\* At the G8 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy in 2009, President Obama joined other global leaders in committing to reinvest in agriculture and rural development as a proven lever for combating food insecurity and as an engine for broader economic growth, prosperity, and stability.

\* Feed the Future, the U.S. government global hunger and food security initiative, renews our commitment to invest in sustainably reducing hunger and poverty. President Obama's pledge of at least \$3.5 billion for agricultural development and food security over three years helped to leverage and align more than \$18.5 billion from other donors in support of a common approach to achieve sustainable food security.

\* Feed the Future is a whole-of-government initiative, emphasizing such core principles as country-owned development solutions, strategic coordination, sustainability, accountability, and collaboration with partners in the private sector, civil society, and the research community.

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medical care after fleeing famine-stricken lands in southern Somalia. They also [visited the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute](#), a U.S.-supported research facility where scientists and researchers are working to help transform agriculture in the region so that it can become more resilient to future cycles of drought. The trip underscored the commitment of the U.S. government—the single largest donor in the region—to respond to the immediate crisis with life-saving assistance and investments in long-term solutions to hunger through Feed the Future. Upon return, the delegation discussed their visit on an [August 17 public teleconference](#) hosted by the White House. *Read the [briefing](#) on the delegation's trip.*



Photo Credit: David Lienemann

## *Partnerships*

### USAID Works with General Mills on Food Processing in East Africa

Since September 2010, USAID has worked with General Mills to implement the African Alliance for Improved Food Processing (AAIFP), which aims to transform the food processing sector in [Ethiopia](#), [Kenya](#), [Tanzania](#), Zambia, and Malawi. The alliance offers technical support and training designed to improve availability and access of high-quality, nutritious foods, as well as to expand market access to smallholder farmers. In its April 2011 semi-annual report, AAIFP reported that mapping of food processors in four of the five target countries had helped identify opportunities to strengthen sectors directly aligned with Feed the Future objectives, as well as key local institutions that would benefit from capacity-building support. As of July 2011, AAIFP is also developing linkages with PEPFAR in Ethiopia and Tanzania to increase access to nutritious foods among vulnerable populations afflicted by HIV/AIDS.

## *Science & Technology in Agriculture*

### FAO Declares Global Freedom from Rinderpest



Photo Credit: Keith Weller

After decades of sustained, collaborative effort from multiple development, financial, and academic partners, including USAID and USDA, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) this summer adopted a Resolution [declaring global freedom from rinderpest](#). Rinderpest is the first animal disease to be eliminated by human efforts and the second disease of any kind to be eradicated, after smallpox in humans. The eradication of this disease is a major milestone for the livestock sector, which has great potential as a revenue generator for countries such as Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Uganda.

## USDA Publishes Agricultural Productivity Report

On July 25, the Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service (ERS) released a report entitled "[Public Agricultural Spending and Future U.S. Agricultural Productivity Growth: Scenarios for 2010-2050](#)." Among other findings, the report projects a 70-100% growth in agricultural demand by 2050, driven by population growth, energy needs, and higher incomes in developing countries. ERS models indicate that if public funding for research and development remains constant until 2050, total factor productivity (TFP) growth will fall to under 0.75% and U.S. agricultural output will increase by only 40% precisely at the time that global agricultural TFP will need to increase to meet demand. These findings suggest that more funding for R&D, along with more land, capital, materials, and other resources, will be vital to ensure food security in the coming decades.

## Senegal Local Support Fund Builds Capacity for Maize Value Chain

On July 20, Andrew Keck, Chief of Party of the Senegal Economic Growth Project, [presented at the Agriculture Sector Council Meeting](#) on the Senegal Local Support Fund (SLSF), an \$8.7 million project innovation within the USAID/Senegal Feed the Future portfolio, which is focused on maize and rice value chains. The SLSF supports Senegalese farmers, consolidators and processors, financial institutions, extension services, universities, and government counterparts. Keck explained how the fund has channeled resources to the most innovative local partners, and how it better equips such partners to compete with maize imports.

## HEARD ON THE HILL

### Congressional Staffers in East Africa Observe Feed the Future Programs

Senate and House staffers traveled last week to Sub-Saharan Africa to observe the U.S. government's mid- and long-term agriculture programming intended to ensure resilience and planning for future droughts. Staffers visited Sudan and Feed the Future countries including [Ethiopia](#), [Rwanda](#), [Tanzania](#), and [Kenya](#), where they were able to see a wide range of food security programs: immediate food aid for the hungry, resilience projects for those in the "poverty safety net" who are able to work for food, and long-term food security projects for small-holder farmers who are successfully harvesting and selling crops. Through this trip, staffers were able to better understand the connections between Feed the Future and Food For Peace's Horn of Africa response. More on the delegation's trip can be found on [USAID's Impact blog](#).

### Feed the Future Leadership Conducts Hill Briefings

In late July, interagency partners conducted two briefings on Feed the Future programming. Representatives from USAID and the Department of State briefed Rep. Emmanuel Cleaver (D-MO) on Feed the Future's objectives, funding, and whole-of-government approach. Feed the Future and Bureau for Food Security (BFS) have also taken leading roles in briefing Members and staff on the conditions in the Horn of Africa, and how food security programming funded by the Feed the Future Initiative will be part of the U.S. government response. Several policy briefings for Congressional staffers were hosted on issues ranging from gender and land tenure to public/private partnerships and how BFS is integrating child labor and education into the economic empowerment objectives of the Feed the Future social policy agenda.

## DOING BUSINESS DIFFERENTLY

### USAID Advances Procurement Plan for Community Connector Program in Uganda

On July 1, USAID/Uganda posted a pre-solicitation notice for its Community Connector program and asked interested stakeholders to comment on the draft statement of work. The initiative not only advances procurement for the Mission's Feed the Future program, but also ensures transparency, leading to an innovative acquisition mechanism. The Community Connector program will be a five-year, \$24.5 million activity to reduce poverty, food insecurity, and under-nutrition through integrated nutrition and agriculture interventions at the community and household levels. The program's innovative design will enable the implementing partner to use independent research mechanisms to assess performance and continually adapt interventions to achieve maximum impact.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **August 21-27 (Dublin, Ireland)**  
[58th World Statistics Conference, International Statistics Institute](#)
- **September 8-9 (Dakar, Senegal)**  
L'Aquila Food Security Initiative (AFSI) Donor Meeting
- **September 12-13 (Montpellier, France)**  
G20 Conference on Agricultural Research for Development
- **September 18-22 (New York, NY)**  
UN General Assembly

## NEWS & MEDIA

### News

[NGO: East Africa Should Emphasize Household Food Security](#)  
August 17, 2011 (VOA)

[Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security ongoing in Arusha](#)  
August 17, 2011 (APO)

[Zambia: Feed the Future - How Will It Improve Country's Rural Food Security?](#)  
August 15, 2011 (AllAfrica)

[Helping Africa Grow Its Own Food: A Declining Effort](#)  
August 14, 2011 (NPR)

[Feeding a Hotter, More Crowded Planet](#)  
August 12, 2011 (NPR)

[Dr. Jill Biden Returns from East Africa](#)  
August 9, 2011 (ABC)

[US Officials Visit Somali Refugees, Press for Famine Assistance](#)  
August 9, 2011, Suzanne Presto (VOA)

### Op-Eds

#### [How America Leads the Fight Against Africa's Famine](#)

August 16, 2011, Bill Frist (WSJ)

#### [Jill Biden, Bill Frist: Let's save starving Somalis](#)

August 11, 2011, Jill Biden & Bill Frist (USA Today)

#### [How American aid is lifting Liberia](#)

August 12, 2011, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (WashPo)

### Blogs

#### [What Somalia Needs](#)

August 16, 2011, Alexis Okeowo (New Yorker)

#### [A Mother's Bond: My Visit to an Ethiopian Therapeutic Feeding Camp](#)

August 15, 2011, Aysha House-Moshi (USAID Impact)

#### [Taste of Africa brings specialty foods to U.S. buyers](#)

August 12, 2011, Leah Quin (Trade Winds)

#### [Doubling Down on Somali Famine Aid](#)

August 11, 2011, Ertharin Cousin (Huffington Post)

#### [Day Two: On the Ground in the Horn of Africa](#)

August 10, 2011, Rajiv Shah (USAID Impact)

#### [On the Ground in the Horn of Africa](#)

August 9, 2011, Rajiv Shah (USAID Impact)

#### [Horn of Africa Drought: Immediate Crisis Requires Long Term Solutions](#)

August 2, 2011, Paul Weisenfeld (USAID Impact)

## **About This Newsletter**

This newsletter is intended to enhance collaboration and information-sharing about implementation of Feed the Future. To subscribe or to find out more information about Feed the Future, please visit our website at <http://www.feedthefuture.gov/newsletter.html>.