

FEED THE FUTURE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Through Feed the Future, America's initiative to combat global hunger, the U.S. government is contributing to significant progress against hunger and poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The initiative brings partners together to help people harness the power of smart agriculture to jumpstart their local economies and lift themselves out of poverty, hunger and malnutrition. By equipping people with the knowledge and tools to feed themselves, Feed the Future is addressing the root causes of poverty and hunger, helping people end their reliance on aid, and creating important opportunities for a new generation of young people, while building a more stable world.



Photo credit: Nadia Waleska Rivera López, CIMMYT

The initiative focuses efforts in developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. These efforts include connecting farmers to markets, supporting innovative agricultural approaches to confront ongoing and future challenges and helping communities become more resilient and better able to respond to emergencies.

Approach

In parts of Latin America and the Caribbean, food insecurity and poor nutrition pose significant obstacles to economic growth and social development. But the region has made progress in improving food security and nutrition, in part due to Feed the Future, which leverages the political commitments of countries to fight hunger and poverty.

Feed the Future has worked with the governments of Guatemala, Honduras and Haiti to develop agricultural investment plans that increase government engagement and local accountability. Working with host country governments and local partners, Feed the Future has made key investments to increase agriculture-led growth, improve the nutrition of women and children, and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable populations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Results

The Feed the Future model is proving itself in country after country, increasing incomes for smallholder farmers and contributing to notable drops in poverty and childhood stunting in many of the places where it works. In 2016 alone, Feed the Future investments in Latin America and the Caribbean:

- Helped more than **400,000 rural households** benefit directly from Feed the Future support
- Spurred nearly **\$27 million (USD)** in new sales on the continent

- Brought small-scale entrepreneurs increased income opportunities through more than **\$26 million (USD)** in new agricultural and rural loans
- Helped leverage more than **\$9 million (USD)** in new private sector investment in the agriculture sector
- Reached more than **718,000 children** with nutrition help

In Latin American and Caribbean countries supported by Feed the Future, local capacity for lasting food security, economic growth and good nutrition continues to grow stronger. Today, more than 160,000 more people are living above the poverty line and more than 23,000 children have escaped the devastating, lifelong consequences of stunting in places where Feed the Future works in the region.

Looking Forward

Guided by the U.S. government's new strategy for global food security, Feed the Future will continue to work with countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to address the root causes of hunger and poverty and build resilience. The U.S. government selected Honduras and Guatemala to continue as target countries in this new phase of the initiative.

By making it possible for farmers and food producers to have more choices on how and what to farm as well as access to more markets and business opportunities, Feed the Future will ensure that families not only have enough food to feed themselves, but can capitalize on the economic engine of agriculture to improve nutrition, increase livelihoods, and secure a better future.

Hope on the Hillsides of Honduras

Victor López lives with his wife and three children in rural Honduras. Like many other farmers in the area, Victor only grew the traditional staple crops beans and corn — with some coffee harvesting on the side. But he was not able to produce enough to feed his family. He worked as a laborer and his wife as a seamstress, but still their income was not enough.

With few options to provide for his family, Victor decided he had to leave Honduras and migrate to the United States. Unsuccessful in this attempt, he returned to Honduras still searching for a solution. In 2011, Feed the Future technicians were looking for potential farmers with whom to partner. Victor fit the bill: He had a plot of land and most importantly the desire to succeed.

The technicians encouraged him to diversify his crops and introduced him to improved farming techniques. They also helped Victor install a drip irrigation system. He is now producing cucumbers and last year his sales were \$2,860. He's also increased his earnings from coffee.



Photo credit: USAID/Honduras

Victor's son, Esman, 18, works alongside his dad every day. Esman is hoping to save up enough money to buy some land and livestock of his own. Like his dad, he says his future is in Honduras.

Victor's family is now making 168 percent more than they did before being involved with Feed the Future. The López family is one of nearly 37,000 households currently assisted by Feed the Future in Honduras.