



# FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

## GHANA FACT SHEET

Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative, is establishing a foundation for lasting 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 governments, 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 reaching significant numbers of children with highly effective nutrition interventions to prevent stunting and child mortality.

### Feed the Future in Ghana

Over the past 20 years, Ghana's impressive economic growth and poverty reduction have made it an African success story. The country's gross domestic product has grown between four to eight percent annually over the past decade and is expected to continue growing at a rapid pace in the coming years. This growth has resulted in a reduction in poverty rates from 52 percent to 28 percent over the past 10 years and puts Ghana on track to reach the first Millennium Development Goal of cutting poverty in half by 2015.

The agriculture sector is the largest source of employment in Ghana and the sector's consistent growth, led by the Government of Ghana, has been a major driver of poverty reduction. However, much of the recent growth has been driven by land expansion rather than improved productivity and gains have been concentrated primarily in southern regions of Ghana, while northern Ghana has significantly higher levels of undernutrition and poverty.

### Supporting Country-led Investment

The Government of Ghana has increased its investment in agriculture to nearly 10 percent of its national budget since signing its Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Compact in 2009. Building on the CAADP Compact, the Medium Term Agriculture Sector Investment Plan brings together donor, public, and private sector resources to modernize the agriculture sector, increase food security, and reduce poverty.

Ghana 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 Ghana and G8 members have endorsed a Cooperation Framework, through which the Government of Ghana has committed to specific policy actions that will increase private investment in agriculture. G8 donors have pledged to align their funding behind country plans, and private sector partners signed Letters of Intent detailing their investment plans in Ghana's agricultural sector.



### Feed the Future Focus

**Target Regions:** 80% focus above 8<sup>th</sup> parallel ("SADA zone"), coastal Western Region

**Value Chains:** Rice, maize, soybean, and marine fisheries

**Objectives:** Increase competitiveness of major food value chains, strengthen resilience of vulnerable communities and households, and improve nutritional status, especially for women and children

## Increasing Value Chain Competitiveness

From production to marketing, Feed the Future is increasing the competitiveness of rice, maize, and soybean value chains in northern Ghana. To accomplish this, Feed the Future is increasing access to seeds and fertilizers, building and rehabilitating irrigation systems, improving crop research and farming practices, and modernizing storage and distribution methods. Activities under Feed the Future will also incorporate information on climate vulnerabilities and other information to support sustainable food security outcomes.

## Enabling the Private Sector

Feed the Future is facilitating private sector engagement throughout the agricultural value chain, primarily by connecting buyers, producers, and other actors. Connecting buyers and producers helps them understand market possibilities and pricing, increasing farmer income and market efficiency. Feed the Future is easing constraints to agricultural finance by establishing loan guarantee mechanisms that reduce risks to lenders and improve farmer access to resources for financing new agricultural endeavors.

## Engaging in the Policy Dialogue

Feed the Future is supporting the Government of Ghana to address three policy priorities highlighted in Ghana's New Alliance Cooperation Framework: improved policies on inputs; a secure environment for inclusive private sector investment; and a transparent, evidence-based, and inclusive policy process. Technical assistance will support Ghana to meet its policy commitments in each of these areas, including completion of regulations to implement a new seed and fertilizer law, a land bank and model lease agreement to improve land tenure for responsible private sector investment, and development and implementation of a more robust annual agricultural survey. In addition, Feed the Future is supporting improved governance to replenish Ghana's depleted marine fisheries, an important source of protein and a way of life for coastal fishing families. Through these efforts, Feed the Future, the Government of Ghana, and other donors are working to strengthen the country's agriculture and food security policy system.

## Nutrition

Ghana has decreased the prevalence of underweight children under five from 25 percent in 1998 to 13 percent in 2011. However, anemia and stunting threaten to derail the hard-won economic and development progress made to date with almost 80 percent of Ghanaians suffering from one or both conditions. Feed the Future programs in northern Ghana are working to assist over 40,000 food-insecure households with women of reproductive age and children under two by providing improved access to diverse and quality food. By working through communities and strengthening local support networks, Feed the Future is also helping to address the ongoing livelihood and nutrition needs of vulnerable households. Feed the Future is also investing in activities to improve child feeding behaviors, including developing training materials, expanding community-based treatment, and increasing accessibility of safe, quality foods for child weaning.

## Gender Integration

Through value chain activities, Feed the Future in Ghana engages women's groups to advocate on behalf of women farmers, traders, and processors and addresses gender-based constraints specific to each targeted commodity. In an upcoming resilience and nutrition project, Feed the Future will primarily target women of child-bearing age with activities to increase agricultural income, improve access to credit, and diversify diets.

### Did You Know?

- Agriculture employs **56%** of the labor force in Ghana
- **30%** of Ghanaians live below the poverty line (under \$1.25 per day)
- **28%** of children under five suffer from stunting and **80%** are anemic