

# FEED THE FUTURE GUIDE: A Summary

## The Global Commitment to Food Security

**“The question is not whether we can end hunger, it’s whether we will.”** — *Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton*

Today, more than one billion people—nearly one-sixth of the world’s population—suffer from chronic hunger. This crisis has devastating and far-reaching effects. Each year, more than 3.5 million children die from undernutrition. Hunger robs the poor of a healthy and productive life and stunts the mental and physical development of the next generation. Undernutrition costs developing countries up to 3 percent of their annual gross domestic product and places individuals at risk of losing more than 10 percent of their lifetime earning potential. Reducing chronic hunger is essential to building a foundation for development investments in health, education, and economic growth. It is essential to the sustainable development of individuals, communities, and nations.

The steep rise in global food prices in 2007 and 2008 served as an alarm bell to developed and developing countries alike about the state of the global food system and the growing problem of hunger. The economic and financial crisis added tens of millions more people to the ranks of the poor and hungry and further shook countries’ confidence in the global economy. The international community responded to these shocks with increases in humanitarian assistance. At the same time, momentum began to build for renewed attention to addressing persistent poverty—the root cause of hunger and economic fragility.

At the G8 Summit in L’Aquila, Italy in July 2009, global leaders committed to “act with the scale and urgency needed to achieve sustainable global food security.” Food security, they noted, is closely connected with economic growth and social progress as well as with political stability and peace. Global leaders recognized that the combined effect of longstanding underinvestment in agriculture and food security, historically high and volatile

food prices, and the economic and financial crisis was increasing dramatically the number of poor and hungry and jeopardizing global progress toward meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

**“While the worlds of agriculture are vast, varied, and rapidly changing, with the right policies and supportive investments at local, national, and global levels, today’s agriculture offers new opportunities to hundreds of millions of rural poor to move out of poverty.”** — *World Bank, World Development Report 2008*

While the challenges are significant, so are the tools for success. The global commitment and experience among a broad range of stakeholders provides the political momentum, evidence base, and resources needed to address the challenge. We have seen new market-oriented approaches to small-scale agriculture deliver results on a large scale—from the rapid rise

This document summarizes the *Feed the Future Guide* (available at [www.feedthefuture.gov](http://www.feedthefuture.gov)). The *Feed the Future Guide* describes the strategic approach and implementation structures of the

U.S. global hunger and food security initiative. It is intended to inform partners and stakeholders about the development of FTF and how we translate our principles into action on the

ground. The FTF Guide is a living document. As we continue to consult with our partners and learn lessons, we will update our guide to reflect the evolution of Feed the Future.



of smallholder dairy industries in India to applications of modern science that led to annual maize yield increases in African countries that were comparable with those in the United States. Unleashing the proven potential of small-scale agricultural producers, while encouraging the sustainable and equitable management of natural resources, will reduce hunger and create a more resilient global food supply.

Women will be a pivotal force behind achieving a food secure world. In most developing countries, they produce between 60 and 80 percent of the food. Analysis by the International Food and Policy Research Institute shows that equalizing women's access to agricultural inputs can increase output by more than 10 percent. Studies show that when gains in income are controlled by women, they are more likely to be spent on food and children's needs. By investing more in women, we amplify benefits across families and generations.

## The U.S. Commitment to Feed The Future

### ... Our financial commitment

At L'Aquila, global leaders—including President Obama—called for increased investment 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 (FTF), the U.S. government's 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. This common approach builds upon the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action—agreements that embody the international commitment to increase efforts in harmonization, alignment, and managing aid for results.

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A family is considered food secure when its members do not live in hunger or fear of hunger. Food security is defined as having four main components: availability, access, utilization, and stability. Families and individuals require a reliable and consistent source of quality food, as well as sufficient resources to purchase it. People must also have the knowledge and basic sanitary conditions to choose, prepare, and distribute food in a way that results in good nutrition for all family members. Finally, the ability to access and utilize food must remain stable and sustained over time.  
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### ... Our principles

Our commitment is more than a financial commitment. Feed the Future is part of our determined strategic and analytical approach to accelerate progress toward the Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and suffering from hunger by 2015. FTF also reflects our tradition of innovation and

entrepreneurship. We innovate by finding new ways to leverage science and technology, creating a focused vision, and encouraging new kinds of collaboration as we build flexible partnerships with a broad range of partners, including the private sector.

**“We are a country whose strength comes from the diversity of the people who have shaped it. A country that believes that dedication and innovation are the only things needed to bridge the gap between the inconceivable and the achievable. And we have backed up that belief with breakthrough, time and again.”**

—Administrator Rajiv Shah,  
U.S. Agency for International Development

The 2009 G8 and G20 Summits established a common global framework for coordinated and comprehensive action to improve food security among governments, donors, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders at all levels—nationally, regionally, and globally. This framework is embodied in five principles, first articulated at L'Aquila and endorsed unanimously as the Rome Principles for Sustainable Food Security by 193 countries at the 2009 World Summit on Food Security.

Feed the Future is guided by the Rome Principles as we work alongside development partners to support country-owned processes through which countries develop and implement food security investment plans that reflect their needs, priorities, and development strategies. Country-owned plans

are the foundation for countries to mobilize resources and coordinate with development partners to accelerate their progress toward the Millennium Development Goals. As described in the Rome Principles, we commit to work in partnership to:

- *Invest in country-owned plans that support results-based programs and partnerships*, so that assistance is tailored to the needs of individual countries through consultative processes and plans that are developed and led by country governments
- *Strengthen strategic coordination* to mobilize and align the resources of the diverse partners and stakeholders—including the private sector and civil society—that are needed to achieve our common objectives
- *Ensure a comprehensive approach* that accelerates inclusive agricultural-led growth and improves nutrition, while also bridging humanitarian relief and sustainable development efforts
- *Leverage the benefits of multilateral institutions* so that priorities and approaches are aligned, investments are coordinated, and financial and technical assistance gaps are filled
- *Deliver on sustained and accountable commitments*, phasing-in investments responsibly to ensure returns, using benchmarks and targets to measure progress toward shared goals, and holding ourselves and other stakeholders publicly accountable for achieving results.

### ... Our commitment to development and diplomacy

The central importance we place on working in partnership with others in the global community means harnessing a range of resources across the U.S. government. Through diplomacy, we will work to sustain the political commitment to food security over the long-term. Food security must remain high on the agenda of global, regional, and national fora to catalyze the equitable poverty reduction necessary for sustained impact. Through our efforts, we will support policy reforms that create an enabling environment for private sector investment that drives gains and sustainability over the long-term. In all of our partnerships, we will work with others to ensure transparency and accountability to civil society, both at home and abroad.

## The Importance of Working...

### ... in countries

Sustainably reducing hunger and poverty begins with vulnerable countries. Host country governments—in consultation with donors, civil society, and the private sector—must decide their needs, priorities and development strategies for addressing the causes and consequences of food insecurity. Through Feed the Future, we align our government's investments with partner country priorities. At the country level, partners can engage in meaningful dialogue on a common framework for action, identify how resources align with strategic priorities, and determine how to address gaps and make adjustments.



Louis Stoppel / USAID



Investing in strengthening partner country capacity to engage in results-based planning and robust stakeholder consultation is a key component of our approach. We will also encourage and participate in multi-stakeholder technical reviews of country-owned investment plans to provide common feedback on the steps needed to strengthen them. This coordination will provide broader opportunities to learn from the experiences of others and improve inclusivity,



transparency, and accountability of stakeholders, including donors who participate in country-led processes.

### ... with multilateral institutions

Building on the Administration's commitment to multilateral engagement, we seek to leverage the strengths of multilateral organizations to build political momentum for sustained efforts to achieve food security. Multilateral institutions are not only important to mobilizing and coordinating donor country commitments, but to promoting global mutual accountability among donors, host governments, and other stakeholders. With their convening authority and technical expertise, multilateral institutions play a central

role in efforts to enhance food security by providing emergency assistance, undertaking analysis and research, offering a platform for sector-wide investments in agriculture, and providing a significant portion of the external financing for investment projects and programs in developing countries.

Multilateral development banks and funds, such as the World Bank, the regional development banks, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, have important advantages that complement bilateral programs. These institutions can leverage significant financial and technical resources, including support of country-owned plans; make multi-year funding commitments to provide host governments with certainty in their budget and planning processes; and undertake complex regional projects that require high levels of intergovernmental coordination such as regional transportation corridors that boost trade flows and reduce the costs and time to ship inputs and agricultural products.

To harness these advantages, G20 leaders at the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit called for a new, flexible multi-donor trust fund, the Global Agriculture and



Food Security Program (GAFSP), to be administered by the World Bank and implemented by a number of multilateral institutions. With its founding contribution to GAFSP, the United States demonstrated its support for efforts to consolidate donor resources where a multilateral approach holds a comparative advantage because of economies of scale or donor capacity. GAFSP will also finance private sector activities to help catalyze investment along the agricultural value chain.

### ... and with NGOs and the private sector

While a country-led planning process is the central mechanism for coordination in our approach, country-led does not mean government only. Meaningful consultation with multiple stakeholders is critical to ensuring equitable growth and poverty reduction. Robust engagement helps strengthen the commitment of key actors, builds the foundation for long-term sustainability, promotes mutual accountability, and balances our support for country-led processes with our need to ensure the sound and strategic use of U.S. resources in promoting sustainable development for food security.

We seek to leverage and coordinate our resources and efforts with the full range of stakeholders interested in food security and agricultural growth. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector are particularly important for combating food insecurity and increasing the sustainability of our efforts.

NGOs often have close ties to local communities and are effective at ensuring that people who are very poor and vulnerable are consulted about and benefit from agricultural and nutritional programs. FTF will continue to partner and consult with NGOs as we move forward and refine our approach, embracing and deploying their expertise and seeking their technical assistance.

Public sector investments alone, while important, are not sufficient to reduce poverty and food insecurity. The private sector brings necessary financial and technical resources, human capital, market access, cutting-edge business practices, in-country networks, and other expertise related to food security. Our investments will help create enabling policy environments and the physical infrastructure that facilitates private sector investment by individual agricultural producers, small and medium enterprises, and larger businesses. By coordinating with the private sector and sharing risks in pursuit of food security, we will increase our collective effectiveness and impact.

## Our Investments in Food Security

### ... Our goals and collective impact

One of the key elements of our approach is our strong commitment to coordinate and partner with developing countries, other donors, international institutions, and other development partners to achieve much greater results.



At the G8 and G20 Summits in 2009, donors committed to increase investment in agricultural development and to allocate resources for agricultural development and food security using a common set of principles, including strategic coordination. If the \$22 billion pledged under this global initiative is invested in country-led, evidence-based strategies consistent with the Rome Principles, we can collectively raise incomes, improve nutrition, and enhance food security in at least four different ways.

- First, based on our preliminary analysis, the combined investments of this global effort focused directly on agricultural production in, for example, extension services, training, roads, and irrigation can increase the incomes of at least 40 million people, including 28 million people who are currently living on incomes of less than \$2 per day, and 13 million people living in extreme poverty on less than \$1.25 per day. These investments will result in direct benefits in the form of increased incomes for many years after the life of the specific projects in which we invest—a gain in income equivalent to an extra year's worth of income over ten years.

- Second, in addition to the direct producer level investments, this global effort will include significant increases in investments in research and development and its dissemination at the global, regional, and national levels. This research on production systems, development of new crop varieties, post-harvest value chains, risk and vulnerability reduction, and other areas will significantly increase productivity gains and income above and beyond the amounts described above. The returns from new research in agriculture are potentially quite large, especially when applied in conjunction with the direct investments in nutrition and agricultural production.

- Third, beyond those individuals and families whose incomes will grow directly, millions more will benefit indirectly from the producer level investments, increased market access, and new research as food supplies increase and prices to all consumers are lowered. These effects and a range of other indirect but measurable benefits—including increased technical and institutional capacity, favorable policy environments, and the expansion of recipient countries' own public and





private investments—will accelerate a process of sustainable, country-driven development, poverty reduction, and improved nutrition.

- Fourth, based on our preliminary analysis, our combined investments can reach 25 million children with a package of nutrition interventions that has been demonstrated to reduce child mortality, improve nutrition outcomes, and protect human capital. These interventions are projected to reduce the number of stunted children by nearly 10 million, and the number of underweight children by more than 4 million.

### ... Our FTF investments

Drawing on an international base of research and experience, we have developed a set of potential investments to guide us as we design investments in support of specific country-owned plans. Our investments will vary by country and will depend on the country's highest priorities and the investments of the country itself, as well as the investments of other donors and key actors. They will build on our existing successes, expertise and strengths, and be concentrated in strategic areas based on

our comparative advantages. They will be designed in close coordination with governments and other development partners in order to maximize our collective impact on our goal of sustainably reducing poverty and hunger.

Our FTF investments will address the key determinants of food insecurity:

- *availability and access*, through investments in agricultural productivity, agribusiness and market development, and equitable distribution of and control over productive resources
- *utilization of food*, through a multifaceted approach to nutrition
- *stability*, through ensuring that effective mechanisms are in place to address chronic food insecurity.

We recognize that creating significant new economic opportunities for women and addressing environmental challenges are critical levers for accelerating growth and achieving a food secure world. Therefore, in all of our investments and activities, we will promote and foster a shared commitment to the goals and the fundamental principles set forth in our

guidance on gender, environment, and climate change. We will do so through early, consistent, and constructive engagement with country counterparts and other stakeholders and through support for food security programs that help partner countries address our mutual environmental, social, and development priorities.

## Where FTF is Investing

### ... in focus countries

To increase the impact of our investments, we will prioritize and concentrate our efforts and resources in focus countries where the Rome Principles can best be realized in practice. We will continue to provide assistance for agricultural development to some other countries where the overall political and investment environment may not be conducive for a major scale-up in investments, or where other donors are playing a major role in food security. In these countries, we commit to align our programs with our objectives and to invest according to the Rome Principles to the extent possible.

Based on the global burden of undernutrition and other factors that examined the prevalence and dynamics of poverty, country commitment, and opportunities for agriculture-led growth, the potential twenty focus countries are: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia in Africa; Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Tajikistan in Asia; and Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras,

and Nicaragua in Latin America. These countries experience chronic hunger and poverty in rural areas and are particularly vulnerable to food price shocks. At the same time, they currently demonstrate potential for rapid and sustainable agricultural-led growth, good governance, and opportunities for regional coordination through trade and other mechanisms. Our final selection of focus countries will also depend upon the timing and availability of FTF resources.

We expect to make our focus country investments in two phases to help ensure the sustainability and impact of our investments. In Phase I, significant FTF effort is devoted to *foundational investments*—providing technical, political, and financial support to assist a country in developing its food security investment plan. Foundational investments also consist of assisting countries in devising policy reforms and in building the capacity for successful implementation of the country-owned plan. Phase I investments also include *core investments*—investments in our two key objectives of inclusive agriculture sector growth and improved nutritional status. Foundational investments in Phase I are designed to lay the groundwork for an expansion of core investments in Phase II, helping to provide both donors and

recipients with the assurance that our investments will be efficient, well-targeted, and mutually reinforcing.

To move to Phase II, a country must have a technically sound food security investment plan, as determined by a multi-stakeholder review panel. In addition, a country must provide evidence of coordination and consultation with key stakeholders and demonstrate commitment and capacity to address the challenges of food insecurity as indicated by follow through on its financial and policy commitments. When a country enters Phase II, it is eligible for larger-scale FTF investments in priority areas that are aligned with the country investment plan. In Phase II, we will invest in a greater proportion of core investments that result in scaled-up development impacts at the country and regional level, while continuing to build the foundation for sustainable and inclusive market-led growth.

### ... in complementary areas

In addition to our bilateral investments, we will also engage in complementary investments that are designed to support our efforts to combat hunger and poverty in our focus countries. These include:

- Investments in *regional programs* where focus countries are located, when significant challenges to food security require cooperation across national borders
- Investments in multilateral mechanisms such as the new World Bank-

administered, multi-donor trust fund—the *Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP)*—an important means to leverage the comparative advantage of multilateral development agencies in large-scale investments, such as infrastructure

- Investments in countries that are *strategic partners*, where FTF investments will benefit focus countries through technical, policy and other cooperation



- Investments in *global research and innovation* that build on new breakthroughs in science and technology, reverse the decline in investment in agricultural productivity, respond to key challenges such as global climate change and water scarcity, and strengthen institutions that deliver technologies to small-scale agricultural producers.

Our investments in agricultural research are particularly important because innovation drives the growth and resilience of the food supply of the future. When adapted to local needs and combined with other investments in agricultural development and nutrition, research-based innovations can address some of the fundamental constraints that give rise to food insecurity by



reducing production risks associated with pests, diseases, and weather patterns; increasing agricultural productivity and resource-use efficiency; contributing to market development; and enhancing food quality to assure a sufficient supply of nutrients to meet people's basic needs.

## Accounting for Results

A robust system to measure progress and enhance accountability is central to improving aid effectiveness, as reflected in the Paris Declaration, the Accra Agenda and the Rome Principles. Donors and partner countries must set benchmarks and targets for investments—and be held publicly accountable to them. In addition to monitoring and evaluating our own investments, we support the development of common monitoring and evaluation systems at country, regional and multilateral levels to track the progress of our collective efforts toward the hunger and poverty MDG. Our evaluation strategy will focus our resources on informing future program design so that we learn from our experience and develop results that we can share with partner countries, stakeholders, and other development partners.

## How FTF Fits Into Other USG Programs

Feed the Future builds on the U.S. government's continued and robust commitment to humanitarian assistance that helps alleviate the immediate impact of acute hunger. FTF complements our existing programs in agriculture and food security and the related work by international and financial institutions receiving funds from the U.S. government. We will elevate coordination within the U.S. government to align our diverse resources and effectively partner with other stakeholders to leverage and harmonize our investments for the greatest collective impact. We see our role and that of other donors as catalyzing pro-poor economic growth through providing political, financial, and technical assistance. We envision a world where private investment drives sustainable growth, and where country and market-led development supplants foreign assistance.

## Our Vision

Feed the Future pursues two paths: (1) addressing the root causes of hunger that limit the potential of millions of people; and (2) establishing a lasting foundation for change by aligning our resources with country-owned pro-

cesses and sustained, multi-stakeholder partnerships. Through our leadership in this initiative, we advance global stability and prosperity by improving the most basic of human conditions—the need that families and individuals have for a reliable source of quality food and sufficient resources to access and purchase it. FTF and other U.S. government priorities—including global health and climate change—allow us to confront the growing challenges of global poverty, disease, water scarcity, climate change and depleting natural resources. By addressing these complex challenges and promoting our values, we protect our own security and lay the foundation for a more peaceful and prosperous future for all.

**“...the United States is leading an effort to reach out to people around the world who are suffering, to provide them immediate assistance and to extend support for food security that will help them lift themselves out of poverty. All of us must join together in this effort, not just because it is right, but because by providing assistance to those countries most in need, we will provide new markets, we will drive the growth of the future that lifts all of us up.”**

—President Barack Obama



a U.S. Government initiative

[feedthefuture.gov](http://feedthefuture.gov)