

In his 2013 *State of the Union* address, President Obama called on the United States and its partners to eradicate extreme poverty in the next two decades. Through targeted investments in agriculture-led growth, *Feed the Future is helping move the dial* on the chronic poverty, hunger and undernutrition that prevent families around the world from leading healthy, productive lives.

It is possible to end extreme hunger and poverty in our lifetimes. In coordination with partners across the globe from multiple sectors, Feed the Future is advancing global food security and nutrition in pursuit of this vision. Read on to learn how we've been working to meet the President's challenge over the past year.

Connect with us:   

January

Feed the Future Launches Major New Global Partnerships with the Private Sector

In 2013, Feed the Future signed major new agreements with [Syngenta](#), [Walmart](#) and [DuPont](#) to improve global agriculture and food security. These public-private partnerships will drive agricultural research, build the capacity of businesses and institutions in developing countries, and improve livelihoods by connecting smallholder farmers to markets.

February

President Obama Promotes a Modernized Approach to Global Food Assistance

In 2013, the Obama Administration proposed reforms to the current food aid system that pair the continued purchase of the best of American agriculture with the flexibility of increased local and regional purchase, cash transfers and electronic vouchers. This increased efficiency and effectiveness would enable the U.S. Government to use the same amount of resources to reach an additional 4 million people each year with life-saving assistance in times of [crisis](#) or [natural disaster](#). [Read more.](#)

March

Feed the Future Holds First Global Learning and Evidence Exchanges on Gender, Nutrition and Scaling

Feed the Future held its first Global Learning and Evidence Exchange (GLEE) events in 2013 on [gender](#), [nutrition](#) and [scaling agricultural technologies](#). Participants at the Gender GLEE used the [Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index](#) to develop strategies for strengthening the positive gender impacts of Feed the Future programming.

GAFSP Awards \$254 Million for Country-Led Agriculture and Food Security Projects

In March, the [Global Agriculture and Food Security Program](#) (GAFSP) announced its [third call](#) for proposals for the [Public Sector Window](#), ultimately awarding funds to eight countries—including Honduras, Mali, Uganda and Zambia – for agriculture and food security projects. With these new grants, GAFSP has allocated a total of \$912 million across 25 countries and expects to improve incomes and food security for more than [10 million people](#). [Read more.](#)

April

U.S. Ramps up Open Data for Food Security

In April, the [G-8 International Conference on Open Data for Agriculture](#) demonstrated agricultural data's potential to improve global food security by driving private sector growth and helping smallholder farmers overcome [challenges](#). Since then, the U.S. Government has released [new data sets](#) to help developing countries improve their agriculture sectors, and recently joined the United Kingdom in launching the [Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition initiative](#). [Read more.](#)

May

Agriculture Fast Track Drives Infrastructure Investments in Africa

[Announced](#) in May, the Agriculture Fast Track (AFT) is a \$25 million, first-of-its-kind multilateral fund that facilitates private financing for improved roads, irrigation, electricity and other essential infrastructure by covering some of the start-up analysis that deters companies and finance institutions from investing in African countries' agriculture sectors. The AFT, which is one of the commitments announced under the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, [opened for business](#) in November and [awarded](#) its first project preparation grants in December. [Read more.](#)

June

U.S. Government Builds Momentum around Nutrition Efforts

In June, on behalf of the United States, USAID Administrator Shah signed the [Global Nutrition for Growth Compact](#) and [announced](#) that the U.S. Government is providing more than \$1 billion for nutrition-specific interventions over fiscal years 2012-2014. The U.S. Government also committed to developing an interagency nutrition strategy to be completed in 2014. [Read more.](#)

July

Scaling Seeds and Technologies Partnership Launched in Africa

In June, USAID and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa launched a \$47 million partnership to [scale up promising agricultural technologies](#) to millions of smallholder farmers. As part of the [New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition](#), the Scaling Seeds and Technologies Partnership aims to increase African production of high-quality seeds by 45 percent over three years. [Read more.](#)

President Obama Highlights Global Food Security and Feed the Future in Senegal

During his [visit to Senegal](#) in June, President Obama toured the Feed the Future [Agricultural Technology Marketplace](#), a gathering of West African private companies, NGO partners, and farmers demonstrating how research and innovation can improve the lives of smallholders. The President also [announced](#) the release of the second [Feed the Future Progress Report](#). [Read more.](#)

August

Feed the Future Civil Society Working Group Submits Recommendations to Broaden Impact

June marked the official launch of a working group focused on [civil society engagement](#) under Feed the Future. In September, the working group submitted a set of [recommendations](#) on how Feed the Future can broaden its impact through collaboration with [civil society](#). A Feed the Future Civil Society Action Plan will be launched in 2014. [Read more.](#)

New Learning Framework will Strengthen Evidence on What Works Best to Achieve Food Security

In July, thanks in large part to strong U.S. Government leadership on [evidence-based learning](#), a collaborative international group of monitoring and evaluation experts launched a new [Food Security Learning Framework](#) that identifies key questions whose answers can greatly improve the effectiveness of global food security programming.

September

Launch of Feed the Future Progress Report on the Hill Draws Broad Participation and Bipartisan Support

Feed the Future launched its second [Progress Report](#) at a July [event on Capitol Hill](#) that featured remarks from Sen. John Boozman, Rep. Jim McGovern, and former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman, as well as members of civil society and the university community. In 2012, Feed the Future helped more than 9 million households through investments in agriculture and food security and reached 12 million children with nutrition programs. [Read more.](#)

October

Peace Corps Engages Students in the Fight against Hunger

In the fall, the Peace Corps and USAID kicked off a Feed the Future Campus Food Security Tour to raise awareness on campuses nationwide about [efforts to fight global hunger and poverty](#) and connect students to [Feed the Future Innovation Labs](#) across the country. [Read more.](#)

New University Partnerships Launched to Fight Global Hunger and Poverty

In October, USAID Administrator Shah announced 10 new Feed the Future Innovation Labs that will draw on the expertise of top U.S. universities and developing country research institutions to advance global food security. A total of [23 Innovation Labs representing nearly 70 university partners](#) are now part of Feed the Future. [Read more.](#)

November

MCC's New Knowledge & Innovation Network Journal Features Critical Food Security Investments

In 2013, MCC launched its Knowledge and Innovation Network (KIN) Journal, featuring lessons, innovations, and thinking behind the Millennium Challenge Corporation's (MCC's) poverty reduction investments around the world. The inaugural issue focuses on [Local Food Security](#), [Global Markets](#). Since 2005, MCC has invested over \$4.3 billion across 21 countries to address food insecurity and to strengthen agricultural and rural economies. [Read more.](#)

U.S. African Development Foundation Reaches 30,000 Beneficiaries

This past year, Feed the Future grants from the U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF) benefitted 30,000 smallholder farmers in eight African countries. In 2013 alone, USADF invested more than \$7.1 million into 46 new food security projects that directly empower under-served and marginalized communities and enterprises. [Read more.](#)

December

OPIC Announces Record Year for Investments in Sustainable Economic Development

The [Overseas Private Investment Corporation](#) (OPIC) set new finance and renewable energy records in 2013, committing \$3.75 billion in support of U.S. businesses investing in sustainable economic development, and backing a record volume of high-impact projects that include support for agriculture, infrastructure and small business lending. [Read more.](#)

New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition Grows to Include Ten African Countries

In December, Senegal launched its [Cooperation Framework](#), becoming the tenth African country to join the [New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition](#). Earlier this year, [Benin](#), [Malawi](#) and [Nigeria](#) also joined the New Alliance, which strengthens [African country ownership](#) of growth in the agriculture sector. [Read more.](#)

2013



PHOTO: Hector Santos



PHOTO: Fintrac, Inc.



PHOTO: Hector Santos



PHOTO: Filbert Mzee



PHOTO: Kelly Ramundo



PHOTO: USAID



PHOTO: Fintrac, Inc.



PHOTO: Pete Souza



PHOTO: Olivier Asselin



PHOTO: USAID



Click to learn more about:

- [A Ghanaian company that grew into a multi-million dollar enterprise](#)
- [A women's fishing cooperative in Rwanda that increased its income by 300 percent](#)
- [Feed the Future's support for civil society groups in Nepal](#)
- [Efforts to fight coffee rust in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)
- [Ethiopia's launch of a new National Nutrition Program](#)
- [Improved cowpea seed varieties in Senegal](#)
- [Peace Corps Volunteers fighting hunger around the world](#)
- [Mobile kitchens bringing improved nutrition to rural communities in Cambodia](#)
- [A Feed the Future Innovation Lab's efforts to fight a global crop pest in West Africa](#)
- [OPIC's support for agriculture and renewable energy in India](#)