



## ZAMBIA FACT SHEET

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

### Feed the Future in Zambia

Zambia is a landlocked country bordering eight countries in central Africa. Zambia has over 70 ethno-linguistic groups, and has experienced relative stability that sets it apart from many of its neighbors. Because of increased foreign investment and the strength of Zambia's copper industry, the World Bank reclassified Zambia from low-income to lower-middle-income country in 2011.

Despite overall economic growth, poverty in Zambia remains high at 80 percent in rural areas, compared to 64 percent nationwide. Further, Zambia is among the worst 20 countries in the world in terms of income inequality. Malnutrition is a major burden on the Zambian health care delivery system and contributes to low human capital. Chronic undernutrition remains a challenge, particularly in rural areas. For example, 48 percent of children living in rural Zambia are stunted, compared to 39 percent of their urban counterparts.

Despite significant challenges, Zambia's human and natural resources provide opportunities to boost food security and improve nutrition. Relative to other countries in the region, Zambia has an abundance of fertile land, water, and a generally favorable climate for agricultural production. The country is considered to have the potential to be a breadbasket for Southern Africa. Zambia was recently ranked among the top 10 reformers in the World Bank's Doing Business Report, indicating the potential for private sector growth. Finally, Zambia's large, well-educated and rapidly growing urban population can spur opportunities such as an increased flow of agriculture products from rural areas to a growing number of high-income urban consumers.



### Feed the Future Focus

**Target Regions:** Eastern Province Economic Corridor

**Value Chains:** Oilseeds, legumes, maize, and horticulture

**Objectives:** Increase smallholder agricultural productivity through diversification and improved markets, promote enabling policy environment, improve resilience of vulnerable households, and improve nutritional outcomes

## **Diversifying Agriculture Production**

Feed the Future investments in maize, oilseeds, legumes, and horticulture are contributing to increased productivity, expanded markets and trade, and increased incomes. Investments in research and development are contributing to increased productivity, as well as climate change adaptation, food quality and safety, and improved nutritional outcomes. For example, some Feed the Future research investments are helping develop drought-tolerant maize varieties and manage aflatoxin (a fungal toxin that contaminates crops) in maize and groundnuts, an important source of protein for the population. Feed the Future supports smallholder out-grower schemes, linking a greater number of small-scale farmers to buyers and processors and other key private sector partners in Eastern Province. Additionally, Feed the Future is increasing farmers' access to improved technologies to support both increases in overall productivity as well as diversification.

## **Promoting Economic Resilience**

Feed the Future investments promote an integrated approach to building assets and reducing risk for vulnerable households that fall below the poverty line in rural areas. Efforts are linking vulnerable households to agricultural value chain interventions, and to community, district, and provincial health systems. Feed the Future-funded activities focus on building assets, reducing undernutrition, and increasing rural incomes for vulnerable households in targeted areas.

## **Engaging in the Policy Dialogue**

Feed the Future supports the development and implementation of agriculture policies that maximize the impact of Feed the Future investments in Zambia. For example, the U.S. government is engaging with the Government of Zambia to improve the effectiveness of Zambia's trade policies, and to increase smallholder farmers' access to agricultural inputs.

## **Nutrition**

Feed the Future is training health workers to improve nutrition services and education. As part of community-level behavioral and social change communication activities, the nutrition program includes a national mass media campaign promoting essential nutrition behaviors, such as exclusive breast-feeding up to the age of 6 months. Zambia has also been selected as an "Early Riser" under the international Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. Additionally, Feed the Future investments in key value chains contribute to improved nutrition, as oilseeds and groundnuts play an important role in improving household nutrition.

## **Gender Integration**

The Feed the Future strategy strives to positively impact female farmers and ensure equitable benefits for men and women. Feed the Future-funded programs ensure women's participation in economic activities throughout key value chains. Research and capacity development will ensure farm technologies are appropriate for both men and women. In-depth gender analysis and impact evaluation are underway to track changes in income and asset ownership.

### **Did You Know?**

- **80%** of Zambians depend on the agriculture sector for their livelihood
  - **64%** of the population lives in poverty (under \$1.25/day)
    - **45%** of children under five years are stunted