



FACT SHEET

Sustaining Feed the Future Progress

For generations, the United States has been a leader in providing development assistance across the globe to alleviate suffering and build shared progress and prosperity. But global food price spikes and resulting instability in 2007 and 2008 were a wake-up call: More needed to be done to break the vicious cycle of hunger and poverty.

The answer: Unlock the potential of agriculture as the key to reducing hunger, extreme poverty, and malnutrition through a movement that became Feed the Future.

Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative, has pioneered a [comprehensive approach](#) to ending global hunger that draws on partnerships across sectors, country leadership, and a focus on achieving results. With an emphasis on supporting smallholder farmers to strengthen global food security and nutrition, Feed the Future is building on [early success](#) to drive real change at a large scale.

The momentum to achieve the long-term vision of [Feed the Future](#) – a world where the scourge of hunger, poverty, and malnutrition no longer threaten the peace and prosperity of millions – is strong. U.S. leadership and bipartisan commitment have been integral to driving the progress that Feed the Future has made in just a few years.

The ongoing [Ebola crisis](#) emphasizes the urgent need to secure progress toward eliminating extreme poverty and ending chronic hunger, which are key drivers of such crises. Poverty can allow a single case to become an outbreak and turn an outbreak into an epidemic. Long-term food security, which the U.S. Government supports through Feed the Future, is essential to combating poverty in developing countries. It helps provide for long-term stability and security and serves to mitigate the impacts of future crises.

AN URGENT NEED

Food, fuel and financial turmoil in 2007 and 2008 pushed millions of people around the world back to the precipice of poverty. Food prices hit all-time highs, sending prices for basic staples like rice and wheat beyond the reach of the world's most vulnerable people.

The resulting spike in food insecurity worldwide and its destabilizing effects served as a wake-up call to policy makers about the depth of the problem. More needed to be done to address not just the symptoms of food insecurity, but the root causes to break the cycle of poverty, hunger and crisis.

Investing in agriculture was integral. Under the Bush Administration, the United States allocated resources for a near and longer-term response to the food price crisis focused on boosting agricultural productivity, strengthening supply chains, and promoting sound market-based principles for agriculture sector development and regional trade. This approach built on ongoing efforts by African leaders to invest in and revitalize agriculture as a proven means

DID YOU KNOW?

A healthy, productive life requires adequate nutrition. Yet millions of people around the world are undernourished, stunting the growth of both children and economies.

More than 800 million people suffer from chronic hunger around the world. Much of this hunger is rooted in poverty.

Growth in agriculture is one of the best ways to spur the kind of economic growth that reduces poverty.

for pulling people out of poverty. Early success provided a near-term boost to agricultural productivity in West Africa and increased food availability.

What began on a more modest scale in several countries through the Initiative to End Hunger in Africa provided the foundation for a more comprehensive, global response to address the underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition.

Following the food price crisis, the United States mobilized a movement that is increasing investments in agriculture and approaching implementation of these resources in a [new way](#): One that coordinates efforts across donors and sectors, supports country-owned plans for improving food security and nutrition, and is highly accountable for achieving results.

Through Feed the Future, the U.S. Government contributes to this global effort, working hand in hand with partner countries to develop their agriculture sectors and improve global food security.

Putting “whole-of-government” into practice, Feed the Future draws on the agricultural, trade, investment, science, development, and policy resources and expertise of departments and agencies [across the U.S. Government](#).

In just a few years, this U.S. Government initiative is already [delivering results](#) that are helping reduce poverty and hunger while also improving nutrition for millions of children and families around the world.

SUSTAINING PROGRESS

On September 18, 2014, members of both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives introduced authorizing legislation to codify and strengthen Feed the Future’s comprehensive approach to cultivating the transformative potential of agriculture-sector growth.

Senators Bob Casey (D-Pennsylvania), Mike Johanns (R-Nebraska), John Boozman (R-Arkansas), Christopher Coons (D-Delaware), Ben Cardin (D-Maryland), and Johnny Isakson (R-Georgia) sponsored legislation in the Senate ([S. 2909](#)).

Representatives Christopher Smith (R-New Jersey) and Betty McCollum (D-Minnesota) sponsored legislation in the House ([H.R. 5656](#)).

The legislation codifies the U.S. Government’s commitment to the productivity, incomes and livelihoods of small-scale producers, particularly women, by working across agricultural value chains and expanding farmers’ access to local and international markets. It strengthens the initiative’s existing accountability mechanisms and establishes parameters for robust Congressional oversight, monitoring and evaluation of impact toward this commitment.

Both bills call for a strategic approach emphasizing:

- Coordination through USAID, of a whole-of-U.S.-Government approach that currently includes the participation of 10 additional federal agencies
- A foundation in country strategies, ownership and engagement
- The harnessing of science, technology and innovation
- Leveraging of unique partnerships in development, including private sector and research institutions
- A focus on women’s economic empowerment and nutrition
- An expansion in the capacity of local organizations and institutions
- Resilience approaches to ensure that chronically vulnerable populations are linked to market systems so they can truly escape poverty
- Engagement in consultative processes with critical external stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector

WHAT HAS FEED THE FUTURE ACHIEVED?

There is broad bipartisan support for sustaining Feed the Future due in large part to tremendous gains made over the past few years.

WORLDWIDE: Last year, Feed the Future helped more than 7 million smallholder farmers access new tools and technologies to help them improve yields and boost incomes. Feed the Future also reached 12.5 million children with nutrition interventions.

ZAMBIA: Feed the Future played a key role in the record maize harvest for the 2013/14 cropping season (3.4 million metric tons – a 32 percent increase over the previous year's total) through policy advocacy and by helping smallholder farmers access agricultural inputs such as improved seeds and fertilizers through private sector providers.

ETHIOPIA: Feed the Future and other U.S. Government programs are making progress toward achieving real reductions in stunting in Ethiopia. A recent nationwide survey shows stunting rates declined by over 9 percent over the past three years, even as the population grew, resulting in 160,000 fewer stunted children.

HONDURAS: More than 4,300 families are now well above the \$1.25-per-day poverty line, thanks in part to Feed the Future's efforts, which increased horticulture sales by 125 percent last year.

BANGLADESH: Feed the Future reached 3.3 million smallholder farmers with improved seed, fertilizer and farm management practices, helping farmers increase rice yields by as much as 20 percent and creating additional rice sales of \$25 million.

SENEGAL: Feed the Future introduced a new breed of high-yielding, high-protein rice that helps smallholder farmers triple yields in a single year.

TANZANIA: Feed the Future helped increase horticulture yields by 44 percent and rice yields by more than 50 percent among farmers the initiative assisted, helping the Government of Tanzania in its efforts to turn the nation's fertile south into a breadbasket.

A WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT EFFORT

As the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative, Feed the Future has been led by USAID since 2010 in concert with 10 other federal departments and agencies:

- U.S. Department of State
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Commerce
- U.S. Department of the Treasury
- U.S. Geological Survey
- U.S. African Development Foundation
- Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
- Millennium Challenge Corporation
- Overseas Private Investment Corporation
- Peace Corps



A Peace Corps Volunteer shares nutrition information with a community in Senegal. Photo by Amanda Grossi