



Feed the Future Country Fact Sheet

Online Version: <https://feedthefuture.gov/country/ghana>

COUNTRY PROFILE



Ghana

In Ghana, Feed the Future is targeting investments in specific regions for maximum impact. These statistics reflect the realities of Ghana and the results of Feed the Future's work there.

POPULATION	POVERTY	STUNTING	RURAL	GDP
5.2 Million Number of people living in Feed the Future target regions in Ghana (2012)	19.6 Percent Percentage of people living in poverty in Feed the Future target regions in 2015	29.9 Percent Percentage of children under 5 suffering from stunting in Feed the Future target regions in 2015	45 Percent Percentage of population living in rural Ghana (World Bank, 2016)	3.6 Percent Annual GDP growth; agriculture accounts for 20% of added value (World Bank, 2016)
FARMERS	SALES	NUTRITION	LAND	INVESTMENT
156 Thousand Producers using new technology and practices with Feed the Future's help in FY16	\$40 Million New income earned by Feed the Future farmers in FY16 from agricultural sales	900 Thousand Children under 5 reached with nutrition help in FY16 across Ghana	95 Thousand Hectares tended with improved technologies or management practices in FY16	\$16 Million New private investment leveraged by Feed the Future in FY16

Approach

Agricultural growth is a major driver of poverty reduction in Ghana, especially in the southern part of the country. Agriculture is the largest source of employment for Ghanaians, with some progress being made in the north of Ghana, where poverty is deeply entrenched and farming is dominated by smallholder farmers producing food and cash crops.

Ghana has been in fiscal crisis with inflation averaging above 17 percent since 1998 - resulting in high bank lending rates above 35 percent and a declining gross domestic product. These challenging economic conditions, coupled with power outages across the country, have stifled growth and investment. In 2015, Ghana lost one-third of its foreign direct investment (nearly \$1.3 billion) as companies moved their operations to other countries. However, even against this challenging backdrop, Feed the Future has seen significant gains by investing in the country's agriculture sector. In areas where Feed the Future works, poverty and stunting have reduced and farmers' productivity and income have grown since 2012. Even lending programs supported by Feed the Future have prevailed to facilitate \$60.9 million dollars in agricultural loans in 2016.

Ghana has achieved an overall reduction in the poverty rate from 52 percent to 28 percent over the past 10 years. Despite this progress, the northern part of the country still has poverty rates nearly twice that of the south. There is a risk that poverty in Northern Ghana will remain high, and the income gap between the north and the south will further widen. While Ghana has exhibited significant progress in agriculture, it must still import 60 percent of the rice and 15 percent of the maize consumed in-country. The demand for both these staple crops is predicted to escalate with the rise in incomes and a high urban growth rate.

Ghana's marine fisheries are also essential to food security, livelihoods and economic development, both within Ghana and the wider region. Marine fisheries are currently over-exploited due to a lack of investment in management and weak institutions that govern natural resources.

While Ghana has made progress in decreasing the prevalence of underweight children under 5, from 25 percent in 1998 to 11 percent in 2014, major child health challenges remain. The northern regions have greater rates of stunting, underweight and wasting, which are linked closely to food insecurity. Chronic undernutrition in these regions is linked to household poverty levels, disease burden, inadequate sanitation facilities and poor infant-feeding practices.

Feed the Future is working with the Government of Ghana and other partners to improve economic opportunities and diversify household income in the rural northern area as well as to improve sustainable management of marine fisheries in coastal areas.

The U.S. Government selected Ghana as one of 12 Feed the Future target countries for focused investment under the new [U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy](#). A country plan is forthcoming.

Strategy

Goal: Reduce the [prevalence in poverty](#) in Feed the Future target regions by 20 percent in five years.

- 2012 baseline: 22.2 percent
- 2017 target: 18 percent

Goal: Reduce the [prevalence of stunting](#) in children under 5 years old in Feed the Future target regions by 20 percent in five years.

- 2012 baseline: 36.1 percent
- 2017 target: 29 percent

To achieve its goals, Feed the Future is making key investments to:

- Improve the competitiveness of targeted value chains
- Improve management of marine fisheries
- Improve the resilience of vulnerable populations
- Improve nutrition, particularly of women and children
- Increase maize, rice and soybean production in Northern Ghana
- More than double gross margins per hectare of land for smallholder farmers

Feed the Future is focusing its efforts in targeted regions and value chains to maximize impact.

Value Chains

- Rice
- Maize
- Soybean
- Marine fisheries

Target Regions

- Northern, Upper West and Upper East Regions and northern Brong Ahafo
- Marine fisheries in six districts of the Western Region
- Feed the Future also supports activities in other areas of Ghana that ultimately support beneficiaries in targeted regions

Program Highlights

Value Chain Approach. From production to marketing, Feed the Future is helping increase the competitiveness of the maize, rice and soybean value chains in Northern Ghana. To accomplish this, Feed the Future is increasing farmers' access to seeds and fertilizers, improving crop research and farming practices, and modernizing storage and distribution methods. Feed the Future activities also work to increase understanding and prediction of risks imposed by the climate and promote strategies to support sustainable food security. In coastal areas in the Western Region, Feed the Future is working to reduce the overexploitation of marine resources and strengthen the local capacity to ensure sustainable fisheries management through policy and governance, applied research, and strengthened community-based institutions.

Nutrition. The prevalence of stunted children under 5 has decreased in Ghana. However, anemia threatens to derail the hard-won economic and development progress made to date. By working through communities and strengthening local support networks, Feed the Future is helping address the ongoing livelihood and nutrition needs of vulnerable households. Feed the Future is also helping families, particularly food-insecure households in Northern Ghana with women of reproductive age and children younger than 2, to improve their access to diverse and quality food. Feed the Future is 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 addresses gender-based constraints specific to each targeted commodity. Through one of its projects in Ghana, Feed the Future specifically helps women of childbearing age increase their agricultural income, improve their access to credit and diversify their diets.

Policy. Feed the Future is supporting the Government of Ghana to meet its policy commitments in three areas outlined in its New Alliance Country Cooperation Framework: improved policies on inputs; a secure environment for private sector investment; and a transparent, evidence-based and inclusive policy process. Feed the Future has helped Ghana complete regulations to implement a new seed and fertilizer law and strengthen private sector organizations including the National Seed Trade Association of Ghana to advocate for policy change. Feed the Future also supported the development of a land bank and model lease agreement to improve land tenure for responsible private investment. Feed the Future is helping improve governance to replenish Ghana's depleted marine fisheries, an important and affordable source of protein for poor 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. Our program emphasizes building the capacity of both government and the private sector to make informed decisions based on reliable evidence and open dialogue between parties.

Private Sector Engagement. 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 better understand market possibilities and negotiate prices, thereby increasing farmer income and market efficiency. Feed the Future is both easing constraints to agricultural finance by establishing loan guarantee mechanisms that reduce risks to lenders and improving the dynamics of farmer and firm access to resources for financing new agricultural endeavors.

Scaling Innovations. Feed the Future is focusing on scaling technologies and practices in maize, rice and soybean crops to help farmers access and adopt improved seeds and good agricultural practices. This includes urea deep placement, a fertilizer application technology, as well as mechanization for planting and post-harvest operations to improve efficiency and reduce losses.

Resilience and Natural Resource Management. Feed the Future in Ghana is also focusing on natural resource management in Northern Ghana, which is drier than the south, through improved agricultural practices. Women's groups are being engaged in the shea sector for income generation as well as working with moringa, a nutritious "super food" that can be utilized to boost household nutrition or exported to markets abroad.

Results

Results by the Numbers

- Nearly **156,000 farmers and other producers** applied new technologies and management practices for the first time on their farms last year with Feed the Future's help.
- Producers applied improved technologies and management practices on more than **96,000 hectares** of land with Feed the Future's help.
- Feed the Future-supported farmers, and producers increased the value of their agricultural product sales last year by nearly **\$40 million**.
- Feed the Future leveraged more than **\$16 million** in new private investment in food and agriculture in Ghana.
- U.S. Government programs reached more than **900,000 children** under 5 years old to improve their nutrition.

Impact

- **Poverty:** The prevalence of **poverty fell by nearly 12 percent** in the areas where Feed the Future works from 22 percent in 2012 to 20 percent in 2015.
- **Nutrition:** The prevalence of **child stunting dropped by nearly 18 percent** in the areas where Feed the Future works from 36 percent in 2012 to 30 percent in 2015.

For more details on impact data, view the [Feed the Future 2016 progress report](#).

Key Achievements

- By using new technologies, labor saving practices, and better post-harvest handling, Feed the Future-supported farmers achieved important gains in 2016: 23,402 maize farmers increased their sales by \$6.7 million, 5,209 rice farmers by \$4.4 million, and 16,083 soybean farmers by \$1.7 million, compared to what they were earning in 2012.
- Feed the Future introduced new technologies like urea deep placement, direct paddy seeders, and alternate wetting and drying to 5,209 rice producers through field demonstrations. The overwhelming majority applied these new technologies on their land, resulting in a total harvest of 20,188 tons of rice. Yields reached an average of 4.3 tons per hectare in 2016, a 60 percent increase from 2013.
- The U.S. Government and its partners, including the 17 districts participating in the Resiliency in Northern Ghana project, reached a total of 900,000 children under 5 with nutrition programs such as growth monitoring and promotion and food demonstrations of soy or cowpeas and iodized salt supplementation. These efforts also provided 603 health facilities with nutrition supplies to address acute malnutrition in 2016.

Source

These results reflect information from the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Peace Corps, and U.S. Department of the Treasury (through the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program) reported into Feed the Future's central monitoring system for fiscal year 2016 (FY16). The interim estimates of poverty and stunting are derived from the Ghana 2015 Zone of Influence Interim Indicator Assessment (forthcoming). For more information on the indicators above, please view our [Feed the Future Indicator Handbook](#). All dollar amounts are listed in U.S. dollars.

Opportunities

At the 72nd United Nations General Assembly Meeting in the United States, President of Ghana Nana Akufo-Addo urged the African continent to move beyond aid and work towards achieving broad-based inclusive economic growth. He leads a "Beyond Aid" agenda for Ghana to transition the country to become dependent on its own resources to drive and sustain economic growth.

Ghana is one of the first African countries of the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, which is a commitment by donors, African countries and private sector partners to work together on reducing poverty through inclusive agricultural growth. Under the New Alliance, the Government of Ghana and G-7 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. G-7 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 is contributing to the government's commitment to food security and building on a purpose shared among civil society, the private sector and development partners. Public-private partnerships are an important opportunity to strengthen food security and accelerate economic growth in Ghana and the West African region as a whole.

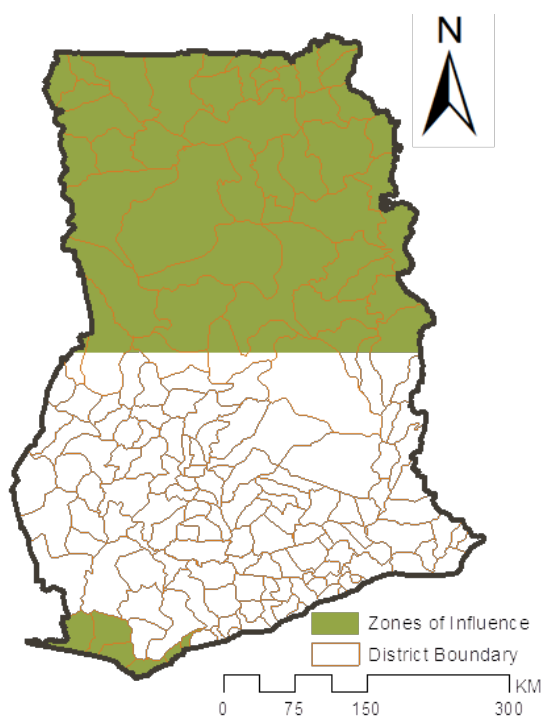
Activities

Feed the Future supports the following programs, partnerships and organizations in Ghana.

- Africa Agriculture Technology Foundation (AATF)
- Africa Lead
- Africa Research in Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation (Africa RISING)
- African Women in Agricultural Research for Development (AWARD)
- Agricultural Development and Value Chain Enhancement Program (ADVANCE)
- Agriculture Policy Support Project (APSP)
- Agricultural Technology Transfer (ATT)
- Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Project (AgNRM)
- Borlaug Higher Education Agricultural Research and Development Program (BHEARD)
- Business Sector Advocacy Challenge Fund (BUSAC)
- Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP)

- Drought Tolerant Maize for Africa (DTMA)
- Empowering Agriculture Global Development Alliances (Fidelity Bank, Integrated Water for Agriculture, Sahel Grains Limited)
- [Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Aquaculture and Fisheries](#)
- [Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Assets and Market Access](#)
- [Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Climate-Resilient Cowpea](#)
- [Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy](#)
- [Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Genomics to Improve Poultry](#)
- [Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Grain Legumes](#)
- [Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture](#)
- [Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Peanut Productivity and Mycotoxin Control](#)
- [Feed the Future Innovation Lab for the Reduction of Post-Harvest Loss](#)
- [Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Small-Scale Irrigation](#)
- [Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Soybean Value Chain Research](#)
- Financing Ghana Agriculture Project (FinGAP)
- Ghana Strategy Support Program (GSSP)
- Ghana Supply Chain Development (SCD) Program
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Technical Support Services (METSS)
- New Alliance ICT Extension Challenge Fund in Ghana
- Norman E. Borlaug Leadership Enhancement in Agriculture Program (Borlaug LEAP)
- Peace Corps
- Program for Biosafety Systems
- Resilience in Northern Ghana (RING)
- USDA Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Support Services
- Scaling Seeds and Technology Partnership (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa)
- Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP)
- The John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program
- USAID Development Credit Authority Loan Portfolio Guarantee (DCA)
- Vegetable Post Harvest Handling Project
- Savannah Agricultural Research Institute (SARI)
- Agriculture and Agribusiness Desk, Ministry of Finance
- Technical and Financial Support to the University of Ghana
- [USDA's Food for Progress Program](#)

Target Regions



Funding

