COUNTRY PROFILE

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>POVERTY</th>
<th>STUNTING</th>
<th>RURAL</th>
<th>GDP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>48.5 Million</td>
<td>58.5 Percent*</td>
<td>20.9 Percent</td>
<td>74 Percent</td>
<td>5.8 Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people living in Kenya (World Bank, 2016)</td>
<td>Percentage of people living in poverty in the Feed the Future northern target areas in 2015</td>
<td>Percentage of children under 5 suffering from stunting in the Feed the Future high rainfall and semi arid target areas in 2015</td>
<td>Percentage of population living in rural Kenya (World Bank, 2016)</td>
<td>Annual GDP growth; agriculture accounts for 35.6% of added value (World Bank, 2016)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FARMERS</th>
<th>SALES</th>
<th>NUTRITION</th>
<th>LAND</th>
<th>INVESTMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>580 Thousand</td>
<td>$102 Million</td>
<td>4.6 Million</td>
<td>331 Thousand</td>
<td>$11 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producers using new technology and practices with Feed the Future’s help in FY16</td>
<td>New income earned by Feed the Future farmers in FY16 from agricultural sales</td>
<td>Children under 5 reached with nutrition help in FY16 across Kenya</td>
<td>Hectares tended with improved technologies or management practices in FY16</td>
<td>New private investment leveraged by Feed the Future in FY16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Approach

Kenya has the largest, most diversified economy in East Africa. Agriculture is the backbone of Kenya’s economy and central to the Government of Kenya’s development strategy. More than 75 percent of Kenyans make some part of their living in agriculture, and the sector accounts for more than a fourth of Kenya’s gross domestic product (GDP).

However, agricultural productivity has been stagnating in recent years, amid continuous population growth. This poses critical challenges to food security in the country as two to four million people receive food aid annually. Moreover, only about 20 percent of Kenyan land is suitable for farming, and maximum yields have not been reached in these areas, leaving considerable potential for increases in productivity. Most farmers work without basic agricultural inputs or updated technology and lack adequate financial or extension services.

While the challenges are great, so are the opportunities. With the largest dairy herd in east and southern Africa, Kenya has the potential to meet local demand for dairy and target regional markets. As one of the largest African exporters of fresh produce to Europe, Kenya’s horticulture industry can expand domestic, regional and international markets. Markets, in turn, can significantly grow through reforms that address standards and quality, policy constraints, irrigation, roads, agricultural inputs, extension, and market access promotion.

Recurrent crises, such as drought in Kenya’s arid lands, exacerbate the vulnerability of basic livelihoods. In response, the U.S. Government is working to build resilience and expand economic opportunities in these areas through disaster risk reduction; conflict mitigation; natural resource management; and strengthening the livestock, dairy and other vital sectors.
Feed the Future is helping Kenya capitalize on these opportunities in agriculture to combat the country’s food security and nutrition challenges.

The U.S. Government selected Kenya 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 of poverty in Feed the Future target regions by 20 percent.

**Goal:** Reduce prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years old in Feed the Future target regions by 20 percent.

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

- Promote value chain growth and diversification
- Increase incomes
- Enhance food security
- Increase resilience to climatic and economic shocks and stressors
- Improve the nutritional status of women and children

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

**Value Chains**

- Horticulture
- Dairy
- Maize, Staples and Drought-Tolerant Crops
- Livestock

**Target Regions**

Feed the Future works in 27 of Kenya’s 47 counties, categorized below by agro-climatic zone. These counties comprise nearly 50 percent of Kenya’s population and more than half of the people living in them live below the poverty line.

**Western Region Counties** (high-rainfall zone): Trans Nzoia, Elgeyo-Marakwet, Uasin Gishu, Nandi, Kisumu, Kericho, Nyamira, Bomet, Kisii, Homa Bay, Migori, Siaya, Vihiga, Kakamega, Busia, Bungoma

**Eastern Region Counties** (semi-arid zone): Meru, Tharaka-Nithi, Kitui, Machakos, Makueni, Taita-Taveta

**Northern Kenya Counties** (arid and semi-arid zone): Turkana, Marsabit, Isiolo, Wajir, Garissa)

**Program Highlights**

**Value Chain Approach.** Feed the Future focuses its efforts on improving several key agricultural value chains in Kenya: horticulture, dairy, maize and other staples for the high rainfall areas; drought-tolerant staple crops (sorghum, millet and root crop systems), drought-tolerant maize, horticulture and pulses for the semi-arid areas; and livestock and dairy in arid and semi-arid lands of northern Kenya. Feed the Future addresses the whole value chain with a special focus on the weakest farm and market connections, from inputs like fertilizer, seeds, and livestock vaccines to credit, production methods, storage, transportation, processing, farmers’ cooperatives, and markets in Kenya, East Africa and overseas.

**Policy.** To enhance food security and reduce poverty, the U.S. Government works with the Government of Kenya at the national and county level, and the East African Community on regional policies, including trade policy reforms, to reduce high tariffs on grain imports. Feed the Future also works with the Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development at Egerton University and Michigan State University to study agricultural policy issues and to advocate key reforms in the sector.

**Finance.** Feed the Future expands smallholder farmers’ access to rural and farm financing through local Kenyan financial institutions. These institutions not only develop and deliver financial products for the rural poor in targeted value chains but also leverage the largest portfolio of loan guarantees in the world through the U.S. Agency for International Development’s (USAID) Development Credit Authority.

**Science and Technology.** The United States supports the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization through collaborating with international research organizations on crop variety research for the semi-arid zone, including research on improved seeds, pest control, and food safety for maize, sorghum, millet, sweet potato, cowpea and pigeon pea. Feed the
Future, through a U.S. Department of Agriculture and USAID partnership, is working with the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services to increase the quality and availability of drought-tolerant crops and varieties and build resilience. Kenya is part of the collaborative research efforts to control a highly virulent wheat stem rust disease, improve goat productivity, address livestock diseases, and reduce the occurrence of aflatoxin fungus in maize.

**Partnerships.** Feed the Future invests in innovative private sector strategies to enhance food security and nutrition through its [Feed the Future Kenya Innovation Engine](#) project. The project is identifying new technologies with the potential to benefit smallholder farmers and Kenyan households. The project will test these innovations and help scale selected game-changing agricultural technologies and approaches to help farmers increase food production and improve their access to markets.

**Women and Youth.** Feed the Future supports activities that empower women and improve the nutritional status of women and children. Women manage an estimated 44 percent of Kenya’s smallholder households and are active along the food chain. Their contribution is significant as their harvests, particularly from home gardens, provide essential nutrients for families. These harvests are often the only food available during the lean seasons or when the main harvest fails. Feed the Future’s training activities promote women’s leadership in business and producer organizations, particularly in horticulture crops where women predominate. Feed the Future is also engaging Kenyan youth in farming, processing and trading to address high levels of youth unemployment.

**Nutrition.** Reducing undernutrition will help address the cycle of poverty in Kenya. With Feed the Future’s support, the Government of Kenya has established the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy to provide an overarching framework that addresses these challenges. Feed the Future is collaborating with health partners in Kenya to promote the incorporation of more nutrient-dense foods into diets and the adoption of improved nutrition behaviors, such as better food handling and preservation. Feed the Future is integrating nutrition and agriculture programming to increase people’s access to diverse and quality foods and share nutrition practices. Resilience programs in the semi-arid Eastern Region facilitate nutrition messaging to populations in these regions, which have the highest levels of malnutrition and suffer from the effects of prolonged drought.

**Scaling Innovations.** Feed the Future works to expand innovative, market-driven solutions that improve food security and nutrition in Kenya. Part of this work involves scaling up the use of technologies and practices that benefit smallholder farmers, including:

- Integrated pest management
- Production and consumption of orange-fleshed sweet potato
- Solar-powered refrigeration for livestock vaccines

**Resilience.** Feed the Future is working on a practical, long-term approach to improve food security in the country’s arid and semi-arid lands that builds on effective humanitarian and development programming and existing country-owned plans. This includes helping pastoralists in Northern Kenya become self-reliant and responsive to shocks. Feed the Future’s resilience work in Kenya aims to help end the need for recurring humanitarian assistance by expanding market opportunities, diversifying livelihoods, strengthening core capacities of institutions and enhancing human capital. Feed the Future’s investments are also helping shift the responsibility for managing risks, building resilience and responding to shocks such as droughts from donors to partner governments, the private sector and communities themselves. The Government of Kenya’s $1.6 billion in investments in their Ending Drought Emergencies epitomizes this shift.

**Results**

**Results by the Numbers**

- More than **580,000 farmers and other producers** used new technologies and management practices for the first time last year with Feed the Future’s help.
- Producers applied improved technologies and management practices on nearly **331,000 hectares** of land with Feed the Future’s help last year.
- Feed the Future-supported farmers and producers increased the value of their agricultural sales by nearly **$102 million** since the start of the initiative.
- Feed the Future leveraged nearly **$11 million** in new private investment in food and agriculture in Kenya.
- U.S. Government programs reached more than **4.6 million children** under 5 years old to improve their nutrition
Impact

- **Poverty:** The change in prevalence of poverty for Kenya was not statistically significant, meaning the margin of error of the survey sample was too great to **conclusively demonstrate change.**
- **Nutrition:** In the high rainfall and semi arid areas where Feed the Future works in Kenya, the prevalence of **stunting fell by more than 40 percent** from 35.1 percent in 2013 to 20.93 in 2015.

For more details on impact data, view the **Feed the Future 2016 progress report.**

Key Achievements

- Feed the Future-supported farmers increased gross margins per dairy cow by 195 percent, from $371 in 2013 to $1,093 in 2016. The amount of milk each cow yielded increased by 76.3 percent, from 5.4 liters per cow per day to 9.7 liters per day, enough to provide 41 cups of milk.
- Feed the Future helped 48,000 pastoralist households practice improved community-based natural resources management of grazing land, and 33,915 households access markets leading to a 36 percent increase in livestock sales in the target counties.
- Feed the Future helped three counties develop individual county investment plans, each with a focus on agriculture.
- The Government of Kenya is scaling a novel livestock insurance program for pastoralists that Feed the Future piloted. It has paid out millions of dollars to more than 12,000 pastoralist households, enabling them to better manage through drought and speed their recovery once drought conditions subside.

Source

These results reflect data from USAID, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Peace Corps, U.S. African Development Foundation and U.S. Department of the Treasury (through the International Fund for Agricultural Development and Global Agriculture and Food Security Program) reported into Feed the Future’s central monitoring system for fiscal year 2016 (FY16). Impact data for poverty statistics are derived from the 2015 Feed the Future Interim Population-Based Survey for the Northern Areas, and the impact data for stunting statistics are derived from the 2015 Feed the Future Interim Population-Based Survey for the High Rainfall and Semi Arid Areas. For more information on the indicators above, please view our **Feed the Future Indicator Handbook.** All dollar amounts are in listed in U.S. dollars.

Opportunities

Agriculture is central to the Government of Kenya’s development strategy and economy. In 2010, Kenya signed a Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program compact to prioritize agricultural development. The Government of Kenya has also established a National Food and Nutrition Security Policy to provide an overarching framework to address poverty, hunger and undernutrition.

In 2013, the Government of Kenya’s constitution called for devolution of governing authorities to a county-based system. Since implementation, Feed the Future has continued to work closely with its national government counterparts while also building strong relationships with county governors. The partnerships at all levels provide a unique opportunity to work across the scope of agriculture at both the national and more localized county levels simultaneously for a more holistic approach to agricultural development.

With the right incentives, opportunities exist to increase agricultural productivity as young entrepreneurial farmers enter the sector and embrace the use of technology to transform subsistence agriculture to commercial operation. Private investment is driving agricultural expansion; addressing blockages in key agricultural value chains can spur further growth.

Activities

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

- Africa Agriculture Technology Foundation
- Agile Harmonized Assistance for Devolved Institutions (AHADI)
- African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD)
- APHIA Plus Rift Valley, Nyanza/Western and Northern Arid Lands
- Asset Based Financing for Smallholder Farmers
- Accelerated Value Chain Development (AVCD)
- AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center
- CGIAR
- Development Credit Authority
- Enabling Agricultural Trade
- 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 Horticulture
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Integrated Pest Management
- Financial Inclusion for Rural Microenterprise (FIRM)
- Food for Peace
- Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
- International Fertilizer Development Center
- Kenya Agriculture Value Chain Enterprises (KAVES)
- Feed the Future Kenya Innovation Engine (KIE)
- Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP)
- Modernizing Extension and Advisory Services
- Peace Corps
- Resilience and Economic Growth in the Arid Lands – Accelerated Growth (REGAL-AG)
- Resilience and Economic Growth in the Arid Lands – Improving Resilience (REGAL-IR)
- Solutions for African Food Enterprises
- Tegemeo Agricultural Policy Research and Analysis Program (TAPRA II)
- USDA McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program
- USDA Research Programs for Poultry and Livestock
- Virus Resistant Cassava for Africa

Target Regions

Funding

*2012 is included in the President's budget request to Congress and is not yet approved*