




Feed the Future Country Fact Sheet

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

COUNTRY PROFILE				
 Malawi				
In Malawi, Feed the Future is targeting investments in specific regions for maximum impact. These statistics reflect the realities of Malawi and the results of Feed the Future's work there.				
POPULATION	POVERTY	STUNTING	RURAL	GDP
5.2	54.5	42.3	84	2.5
Million	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Number of people living in Feed the Future target regions in Malawi (rural)	Percentage of people living in poverty in Feed the Future target regions (rural, 2015)	Percentage of children under 5 suffering from stunting in Feed the Future target regions (rural, 2015)	Percentage of population living in rural Malawi (World Bank, 2016)	Annual GDP growth; agriculture accounts for 28.1% of added value (World Bank, 2016)
FARMERS	SALES	NUTRITION	LAND	INVESTMENT
227	\$6.7	3.7	74	\$1.4
Thousand	Million	Million	Thousand	Million
Producers using new technology and practices with Feed the Future's help in FY16	Income earned by Feed the Future farmers in FY16 from agricultural sales	Children under 5 reached with nutrition help in FY16 across Malawi	Hectares tended with improved technologies or management practices in FY16	New private investment leveraged by Feed the Future in FY16

Approach

Malawi has benefited from decades of peace and security and the Government of Malawi has elevated agriculture and nutrition as key national policy priorities. The country has demonstrated leadership through stable governance and economic growth. However, high population density and growth, along with only a single rainy season per year, pose distinct challenges that make Malawi's agricultural growth precarious and make the country susceptible to food insecurity.

The agriculture sector represents nearly 30 percent of gross domestic product and employs 80 percent of Malawi's population. However, only 10 to 15 percent of smallholders sell grain each year. A litany of challenges, including small land holdings, a poorly developed seed sector, weak agricultural extension services, and limited access to finance and significant policy constraints hamper the transformation of Malawi's agriculture sector.

Partly as a result of these challenges, more than half the population of Malawi lives below the poverty line. While overall poverty rates and caloric intake have improved in recent years, high rates of undernutrition, HIV/AIDS and malaria, as well as underdeveloped markets and low agricultural productivity, inhibit food security and economic development.

High freight costs, damaged infrastructure and unpredictable economic policies have impeded efforts to increase and diversify both regional and international trade. Lack of access to improved water sources and proper sanitation systems contribute to cholera outbreaks during the rainy season.

To address these challenges and leverage opportunities, Malawi has developed the Agricultural Sector-Wide Approach in consultation with stakeholders and has made commitments under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development

Program. Feed the Future activities complement Malawi's own efforts to improve food security and nutrition and reduce poverty by helping develop value chains, improve nutrition options and create an enabling policy environment.

Strategy

Goal: Reduce the **prevalence of poverty** in rural areas of Feed the Future target districts by 20 percent.

- 2011 baseline: 66.7 percent
- 2017 target: 53.4 percent

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

- 2010 baseline: 49.2 percent
- 2017 target: 39.4 percent

Goal: Increase the resilience of rural households and communities in target districts.

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

- Boost smallholder farmer yields and reduce post-harvest loss through adoption of new technologies and good agricultural practices
- Expand agricultural trade and integrate smallholders into commercial markets
- Improve household nutrition through increased production and consumption of legumes (including groundnuts and soy) and vitamin-rich orange-fleshed sweet potatoes
- Unlock access to agricultural finance for smallholder farmers and small businesses
- Improve farmer access to improved seed varieties
- Help farmers and communities build resilience and adapt to changing and extreme weather patterns
- Build the capacity of the agriculture and nutrition extension system to provide high-quality advisory services
- Support the Government of Malawi to develop and implement new policies and improve the policy environment

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

Value Chains

- Legumes (including, but not limited to, soy and groundnuts)
- Orange-fleshed sweet potatoes

Target Regions

- **Primary:** Rural populations living in the Dedza, Mchinji, Lilongwe Rural, Ntcheu, Mangochi, Blantyre Rural, Balaka and Machinga districts in the Central and Southern Regions
- **Resilience Focus:** Rural populations living in the Chikwawa and Nsanje districts in the Southern Region.

Program Highlights

Value Chain Approach. Feed the Future investments in the legume and orange-fleshed sweet potato value chains are designed to boost market competitiveness and promote agricultural diversification. These value chains have the potential to expand markets, benefit livelihoods, diversify and improve diets, boost resilience to shocks and risks, and leverage donor support in Malawi. Feed the Future facilitates a range of services within these value chains, including access to quality inputs, promotion of improved agricultural practices, adoption of new tools and technologies, access to finance, and collective marketing. Feed the Future focuses on strengthening the capacity of local organizations and the private sector to provide value chain services and address the needs of farmers, emphasizing the creation of sustainable models of service provision and commercial linkages. A promising component is the promotion of structured and transparent commodity trading systems. By linking smallholder farmers and producer organizations with domestic and regional buyers, Feed the Future is helping farmers increase their profits.

Resilience. Malawi is prone to recurring natural disasters, such as droughts and floods, leading to chronic food insecurity in many parts of the country. Feed the Future is helping families increase their resilience by diversifying away from growing maize to cultivating more adaptive crops like legumes, orange-fleshed sweet potatoes, and drought-tolerant cereals. This approach includes increasing the availability of smallholder farmers' access to drought-tolerant maize varieties as well as sorghum and millet. Food for Peace also provides development and food assistance in the Chikwawa and Nsanje districts in

the Southern Region. To underscore the importance of building resilience among rural households and communities, the 2016-17 humanitarian response in Malawi cost the U.S. Government \$126 million. According to the World Food Program, the average cost to deliver food to one family over a nine-month period was \$390 per household. By contrast, a previously food-insecure community, in which the U.S. Government invested an average of \$376 per household over a five-year period ending in 2014, did not require food assistance during the 2016-17 humanitarian emergency and is now thriving.

Feed the Future makes strategic investments in improved agricultural technologies and agriculture and nutrition extension services to complement Food for Peace programming and enhance resilience among rural populations living in highly food-insecure districts. For example, Feed the Future is promoting the use of Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) bags to reduce postharvest losses for grains and legumes, thereby giving rural households as much as three months of additional supply of grain each year. In addition, the initiative is promoting the use of drip irrigation systems to give farmers extended growing seasons and improve their resilience to drought and erratic rainfall patterns. Feed the Future supports early warning systems that improve the quality and timeliness of information and predictions of extreme weather events, economic shocks, and other threats to food security. These systems monitor and assess environmental and socio-economic hazards that affect market price trends, nutrition and cross-border trade. Feed the Future also assisted the Government of Malawi to incorporate current best practices into its new National Resilience Strategy.

Nutrition. Feed the Future promotes nutrition-sensitive agricultural productivity and builds the capacity of local health workers and organizations. These activities leverage and complement value chain investments and focus on behavior change and capacity building, working with district-level health workers to intensify messaging about essential nutrition actions and extension service providers to better coordinate and integrate agriculture and nutrition extension services. Feed the Future efforts also focus on ensuring the right nutrition for children during the first 1,000 days, the window between pregnancy and a child's second birthday. Feed the Future is also implementing community "care groups" that deliver nutrition education in the same communities that benefit from value chain interventions and promote nutrition, sanitation and hygiene-related practices. These efforts increase the availability of nutritious foods and lead to better diets, dietary diversity and better sanitation and hygiene, which help improve women's and children's nutrition. These efforts complement Malawi's National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan.

Gender Integration. Feed the Future encourages women's participation in decision making and control of resources. Both the legume and sweet potato value chains have high female participation and provide significant opportunities to support women's economic empowerment. Feed the Future takes gender-based roles and responsibilities into account when analyzing opportunities, constraints and conducting advocacy to identify ways to enhance both male and female involvement in nutrition and value chain activities. Feed the Future provides leadership and literacy training to help women participate more fully in marketing opportunities and take leadership roles in producer organizations.

Policy. Feed the Future is working with the Government of Malawi to advance policies that improve agricultural inputs, agricultural trade and institutional architecture, and nutrition, as identified in the country's New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition Cooperation Framework. Feed the Future is helping strengthen policy systems to ensure that the Government of Malawi has sound information and analysis on which to base policy development. Feed the Future is also strengthening the country's capacity to implement, monitor and evaluate agriculture and nutrition programs, while supporting local civil society organizations in the agriculture sector to better participate in and drive policy dialogue.

Agricultural Extension Services. Feed the Future is working with the Government of Malawi to strengthen the capacity of the agriculture and nutrition extension system to provide high-quality, timely advisory services to smallholder farmers. Feed the Future is also strengthening connections between the research and the agriculture extension system to ensure that research is more effectively meeting the needs of farmers.

Scaling Innovations. Feed the Future is scaling up adoption of new technologies and production of specific crops and agricultural practices in Malawi to benefit smallholder farmers and improve nutrition, including:

- Cultivation of soybean varieties that will boost yields for smallholder farmers, improve soil fertility, and increase smallholder participation in the growing commercial market for soy in Malawi.
- Cultivation of groundnut varieties that boost yields, provide a higher concentration of oil for retail, and more effectively meet the needs of commercial buyers.
- Increased use of doubled-up legume cropping, a practice that farmers can use to improve soil fertility, thereby increasing their yields and food security.
- Increased supply of and demand for orange-fleshed sweet potato, a vitamin-A rich crop that will improve resilience and nutrition.
- Increased use of inoculant to boost yields of legume crops, including soy and groundnuts.
- Increased use of Purdue Improved Crop Storage bags to reduce postharvest losses.
- Adoption of drip irrigation to reduce water use, increase yields, increase the number of cropping cycles per year, and

enhance household resilience.

Results

Results by the Numbers

- More than **277,000 farmers and food producers** applied new technologies and management practices on their farms last year with Feed the Future's help.
- Producers applied improved technologies and management practices on nearly **74,000 hectares** of land with Feed the Future's help.
- Feed the Future-supported producers sold agricultural products valued at more than **\$6.7 million**.
- Feed the Future leveraged more than **\$1.4 million** in new private investment in food and agriculture in Malawi.
- U.S. Government programs reached more than **3.7 million** children under 5 years old to improve their nutrition.

Impact

- **Poverty:** The prevalence of **poverty** in the areas where Feed the Future works in Malawi has **declined by 18.3 percent**, from 66.7 percent in 2010 to 54.5 percent in 2015.
- **Nutrition:** The prevalence of **stunting has declined by 14.0 percent**, from 49.2 percent in 2010 to 42.3 percent in 2015.

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

Key Achievements

- Feed the Future helped develop a new line of nutritious sweet potato products for commercialization.
- Feed the Future unlocked \$3.5 million in financing for smallholder farmers through the Agricultural Commodity Exchange in 2016.
- Feed the Future facilitated \$1.26 million in soy exports in 2016.
- Feed the Future-supported care groups reached more than 122,000 families with nutrition education and behavioral change communication. Within these households, there has been positive behavior change as well as more home gardens, sanitation facilities and energy-saving stoves.

Source

These results reflect information from U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Peace Corps, U.S. African Development Foundation and the 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). Impact data for poverty and stunting statistics are derived from the 2015 Feed the Future FEEDBACK ZOI Interim Survey. The baseline data for poverty were collected from the 2010-2011 Malawi Integrated Household Survey 3, and the baseline data for stunting were collected from the 2010 Malawi Demographic and Health Survey. 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

Malawi's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program Country Investment Plan outlines the Government of Malawi's plans to address food insecurity and spur agriculture-led growth. The Government of Malawi has developed a National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan that is closely linked with this plan. Together, these plans coordinate food security programming at the national and community levels.

The U.S. Government works closely with the European Union to support the Government of Malawi in implementing the [New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition](#) Cooperation Framework. This framework brings together the government, private sector and development partners to develop a plan to accelerate private sector investment and commercialization of

Malawi's agriculture sector. Under the New Alliance, Malawi has made 15 policy commitments to improve the enabling environment for agriculture.

Activities

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

- Africa Research for Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation (Africa RISING)
- Agriculture Sector-Wide Approach Multi-Donor Trust Fund
- Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
- Borlaug Higher Education Agricultural Research and Development (BHEARD)
- Famine and Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET)
- [**Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Assets and Market Access**](#)
- [**Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Climate-Resilient Beans**](#)
- [**Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy**](#)
- [**Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Grain Legumes**](#)
- [**Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture**](#)
- [**Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Nutrition**](#)
- [**Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Peanut Productivity and Mycotoxin Control**](#)
- [**Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Soybean Value Chain Research**](#)
- Feed the Future Malawi Agriculture Diversification (AgDiv)
- Feed the Future Malawi Improved Seed Systems and Technologies (MISST)
- Feed the Future Partnering for Innovation
- Global Agriculture and Food Security Program
- Global Center for Food Systems Innovation
- Health Communications for Life (HC4L)
- New Alliance Policy Acceleration Support (NAPAS)
- Peace Corps Small Project Assistance
- Program for Biosafety Systems
- Solutions for African Food Enterprises (SAFE)
- Southern Africa Trade and Investment Hub
- Strengthening Agriculture and Nutrition Extension (SANE)
- [**The John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program**](#)
- Tiwalere II
- U.S. African Development Foundation
- USDA McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program

Target Regions

Funding

