



Feed the Future Country Fact Sheet

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

COUNTRY PROFILE



Rwanda

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

POPULATION	POVERTY	STUNTING	RURAL	GDP
9.3 Million Number of people living in Feed the Future target regions	62 Percent Percentage of people living in poverty in Rwanda in 2015	39.7 Percent Percentage of children under 5 suffering from stunting in Rwanda in 2015	73 Percent Percentage of population living in rural Rwanda (World Bank, 2013)	6.9 Percent GDP growth (first three quarters of 2015); agriculture accounts for 33.4% of added value (World Bank, 2015)
FARMERS	SALES	NUTRITION	LAND	INVESTMENT
80 Thousand Producers using improved technologies and practices with Feed the Future's help in FY15	\$28 Million New income earned by Feed the Future farmers in FY15 from agricultural product sales	543 Thousand Children under 5 reached with nutrition help in FY15 across Rwanda	16.5 Thousand Hectares tended with improved technologies or management practices in FY15	\$13 Million New private investment leveraged by Feed the Future in FY15

Approach

Rwanda has made remarkable progress since the tragedy of the 1994 genocide, enjoying strong economic growth rates, new business opportunities, and drops in the national poverty rate. The country's gross domestic product saw real average annual growth of nearly 7 percent between 2010 and 2014.

Yet Rwanda—a small, landlocked country with the highest population density in Sub-Saharan Africa—remains one of the world's poorest countries. About 62 percent of the population lives on less than \$1.25 per day.

Agriculture is the foundation of the Rwandan economy, accounting for 33 percent of gross domestic product, 80 percent of employment, 63 percent of foreign exchange earnings, and 90 percent of the country's food needs (World Bank, 2014). However, agricultural productivity remains low. The vast majority of farmers practice subsistence farming on small, hilly plots. Due to erosion and poor soil fertility practices, up to half of the country's land is severely degraded. The use of improved seeds, pesticides and fertilizers is limited.

In part due to low agricultural productivity, nearly a third of the Rwandan population experiences food insecurity. Undernutrition persists among young children in rural areas with almost 40 percent of children under 5 suffering from stunting.

To address food insecurity and malnutrition in Rwanda, Feed the Future is helping increase productivity of maize, beans and dairy, and is targeting horticulture, livestock, irish potato, and orange-fleshed sweet potato value chains to promote good nutrition practices and help families generate additional income.

Strategy

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

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

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

- Transform systems by improving agricultural productivity, markets, infrastructure and nutrition
- Promote private sector investment in the agriculture sector
- Strengthen the policy-making capacity of the Government of Rwanda
- Promote climate-smart agriculture technologies

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

Value Chains

- Beans
- Maize
- Dairy
- Livestock
- Orange-fleshed Sweet Potato
- Horticulture
- Irish Potato

Target Regions

Feed the Future works in rural areas across Rwanda except for three districts in Kigali.

Program Highlights

Value Chain Approach. Feed the Future is investing in the beans, maize and dairy value chains for maximum, sustained impact in Rwanda. Despite shocks and stresses imposed by the climate, models suggest that bean and maize production in Rwanda will likely rise significantly by 2050, in contrast to its regional neighbors. These crops are complementary as they are often rotated and require similar drying and storage infrastructure. The competitiveness of Rwanda's dairy industry within the region is also growing. As the dairy sector matures, milk volume is increasing, overall quality is improving and a more diverse range of commercial dairy products is available in the market. Feed the Future is helping Rwanda build on this progress so the industry can better respond to latent demand in the country and region. A key aspect of this support has been helping the Rwandan government enforce its regulatory framework to maintain health and quality standards for milk entering the market. Feed the Future is expanding investments to also include Irish potato, livestock, horticulture, and orange-fleshed sweet potato to more effectively reduce poverty and stunting among smallholder farming families. These crops have a significant production gap and Feed the Future has the opportunity to make a significant difference in potential yields.

Markets and Trade. Feed the Future is encouraging private sector growth and competition in Rwanda's agriculture sector. Feed the Future's support to the Government of Rwanda to privatize the fertilizer market is increasing the private sector's role in importing fertilizers and facilitating farmers' access to these inputs. Feed the Future is also strengthening farmer cooperatives' management and operational capacity to increase their competitiveness and facilitating farmers' access to and adoption of improved technologies to increase productivity and enhance postharvest practices. Feed the Future is also helping expand financial services to the poor, women and microenterprises and encouraging lending through loan guarantees. Through Feed the Future, the country is increasing its export revenue by connecting producers of export crops like vegetables with regional buyers. The initiative also helps integrate regional trade through a transparent and secure web-based portal to reduce time to clear goods at borders along with other trade facilitation efforts to reduce the costs of cross-border trade.

Infrastructure. Inadequate rural feeder roads have cost Rwanda millions of dollars. Feed the Future is helping rehabilitate these roads in target districts using local firms and labor wherever possible. This helps build local capacity for road construction and maintenance thereby increasing the sustainability of these investments for future generations. Feed the Future is also helping Rwanda improve the productivity and commercialization of hillside agriculture by developing small-scale irrigation networks and introducing sustainable soil and water management practices to safeguard and stabilize steep slopes under cultivation. This work is central to the country's plans for boosting farmers' resilience.

Nutrition. Since 2013 the Government of Rwanda has rolled out a series of ambitious strategies and plans specifically targeting efforts to reduce stunting while sustaining the progress Rwanda has made in addressing underweight children. Feed the Future's investments in reducing postharvest loss, reaching women, and improving access to finance also help maximize nutrition improvements. The U.S. Government is helping Rwanda strengthen and scale community-based nutrition programs to prevent undernutrition in young children and in pregnant and lactating women. Feed the Future is promoting the production and consumption of nutrient-rich food crops such as iron-fortified beans, vitamin-rich sweet potatoes and vegetables to eliminate micronutrient deficiencies, build the capacity of the government to implement its multi-sector plans, and inform behavior change communication strategies.

Policy. Rwanda's economic development and stability are greatly dependent on its neighbors. The Government of Rwanda has been a strong advocate of deeper integration within the East African Community, playing a leadership role in advancing regional initiatives. Given the Government of Rwanda's commitment to regional integration as a core element of its national development strategy, an important component of the Feed the Future strategy is advocacy for greater attention to those regional issues that have the greatest impact on food security locally, including transit efficiency, food safety and quality standards, market information, and research.

Gender Integration. Although Rwanda is justifiably recognized for the strong leadership role played by its women and its sound legal framework for protecting the principles of gender equality, significant gender disparities remain, particularly at the household level. To ensure that programs are sensitive to the underlying conditions that result in these disparities, Rwanda completed a gender strategy for the agriculture sector. While some Feed the Future investments target women specifically, all reflect the findings and recommendations of this gender strategy in their design.

Scaling Innovations. Feed the Future is scaling the adoption and use of technologies and practices that benefit smallholder farmers in Rwanda and improve nutrition, including:

- Production of iron-fortified beans
- Production of orange-fleshed sweet potatoes

Rwanda was a focus country under the first phase of Feed the Future. It will continue to report on Feed the Future results through 2018.

Results

Results by the Numbers

- More than **80,000 farmers and other 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 **16,500 hectares** of land with Feed the Future's help.
- Feed the Future-supported producers increased the value of their agricultural sales over the past year by nearly **\$28 million**.
- Feed the Future leveraged more than **\$13 million** in new private investment in food and agriculture.
- U.S. Government programs reached more than **543,000 children** under 5 years old to improve their nutrition.

Impact

- **Poverty:** In Feed the Future target regions, **poverty dropped by 7 percent** from 67 percent in 2010 to 62 percent in 2014.
- **Nutrition:** In Feed the Future target regions, **child stunting fell by 14 percent** from 46 percent in 2010 to 40 percent in 2015.

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

Key Achievements

- Since 2012, Feed the Future has helped more than 33,300 dairy farmers adopt new technologies and management practices and created more than 10,700 jobs in the dairy sector.
- Liters of milk sold increased by 22 percent in 2015 and gross margins per cow by 34 percent. Overall, dairy farmers reached by Feed the Future increased their incomes by 86 percent between 2014 and 2015.

- Since 2013, Feed the Future has worked closely with Rwanda's Ministry of Agriculture to produce the National Dairy Strategy, which has become the guiding document for dairy development in Rwanda. A key goal was to double milk consumption by 2018. As a result of a Feed the Future-sponsored national milk campaign, average milk consumption per family increased by 49 percent.
- The Government of Rwanda approved a new Ministerial Order on milk storage, collection, transport and commercialization. This will allow the Rwandan government to enforce rules and procedures on the proper and hygienic handling of milk along the supply chain and will positively influence the quality of products in the domestic market as well as prospective export markets.
- Feed the Future helped train 291,311 men and women in child health and nutrition, and 271,396 children under the age of 5 had improved diets.
- Under the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, 15,300 hectares were protected against land erosion. The resulting improvement in land productivity has increased the income of at least 26,792 households five-fold.
- Since 2012, Feed the Future has helped more than 68,700 maize farming families use improved technologies such as high-yielding seeds, irrigation, fertilizer and postharvest handling techniques on more than 834 hectares of land. As a result, farmers increased their gross farm income by 27 percent over baseline in 2015.
- Feed the Future has also helped more than 11,700 bean farming families increase their production by 22 percent by using new technologies or management practices on 712 hectares of land. These farmers invested their profit in home renovation and construction, electrification, school fees, health insurance, livestock, and other activities.
- Feed the Future helped terrace and protect 1,629 hectares of land against soil erosion, rehabilitate 250 hectares of forests, and produce 6,976 megatons of compost. These improvements safeguard at-risk land, 70 percent of which is on hillsides.

Source

These results reflect information from the U.S. Agency for International Development, Peace Corps, the U.S. African Development Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Treasury (through the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program) reported into Feed the Future's central monitoring system for fiscal year 2015 (FY15). Impact data for poverty statistics comes from the Rwanda Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey 4, and the impact data for stunting statistics are derived from the 2015 Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey report. For more information on the indicators above, please view our [2016 Feed the Future progress report](#). All dollar amounts are listed in U.S. dollars.

Opportunities

Rwanda's sound policy environment, solid growth record and macroeconomic stability provide a strong foundation for Feed the Future implementation. Rwanda has committed itself to generating sustained agricultural growth, including increasing the share of the national budget allocated to agriculture from 3 percent in 2006 to 10 percent in 2014.

Rwanda's investments appear to be paying off. Since 2007, annual agriculture growth has averaged over 5 percent. Rwanda has demonstrated the same level of commitment to tackling undernutrition, launching its Emergency Plan to Fight Malnutrition and a national strategy addressing pre and postnatal care to reduce all forms of malnutrition.

Rwanda also received a \$50 million grant from the [Global Agriculture and Food Security Program](#) to increase productivity and commercialization of hillside agriculture through research and extension, water and land management, stronger agricultural value chains, and expanded access to finance.

Looking for opportunities to work in our Feed the Future countries? Visit the opportunities tabs on our [Research](#) and [Civil Society](#) pages. If you're a [private sector](#) company interested in a partnership with Feed the Future agencies in the areas of food security and nutrition in Rwanda, use our [interactive online tool](#) to learn more.

Activities

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

- Africa Lead
- Borlaug Higher Education for Agricultural Research Development (BHEARD)
- Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNet)
- [Global Agriculture and Food Security Program](#)
- HarvestPlus Iron-Fortified Beans Activity

- Integrated Improved Livelihood Program
- Land Husbandry, Hillside Irrigation and Water Harvesting Program
- Land Project
- Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition Marketplace for Nutritious Food
- [Peace Corps](#) Volunteers
- Private Sector-Driven Agricultural Growth
- Privatization of Rwanda's Fertilizer Import and Distribution Systems
- Rwanda Dairy Competitiveness Project II
- Rwanda Rural Feeder Roads Improvement Program
- Trade Infrastructure Program
- [U.S. African Development Foundation](#)
- USAID [Development Credit Authority](#)
- USDA-NASS Support to the Government of Rwanda
- Women Leadership Program

Target Regions

Funding

