



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
9.4 Million Number of people living in Feed the Future target regions	62.0 Percent Percentage of people living in poverty in Rwanda in 2014	39.7 Percent Percentage of children under 5 suffering from stunting in Feed the Future target regions in 2015	70 Percent Percentage of population living in rural Rwanda (World Bank, 2016)	5.9 Percent Annual GDP growth ; agriculture accounts for 31.5% of added value (World Bank, 2016)
FARMERS	SALES	NUTRITION	LAND	INVESTMENT
262 Thousand Producers using improved technologies and practices with Feed the Future's help in FY16	\$13 Million New income earned by Feed the Future farmers in FY16 from agricultural sales	374 Thousand Children under 5 reached with nutrition help in FY16 across Rwanda	14.3 Thousand Hectares tended with improved technologies or management practices in FY16	\$20 Million New private investment leveraged by Feed the Future in FY16

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 5.9 percent in 2016.

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 29.5 percent of gross domestic product at current prices (National Bank of Rwanda, 2016), 45.9 percent of employment (NISR, 2017), 63 percent of foreign exchange earnings (World Bank, 2014), 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, over 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 orange fleshed sweet potato, and is targeting horticulture, Irish potato value chains to promote good nutrition practices and

help families generate additional income. Feed the future is also supporting the production and consumption of animal sourced proteins.

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
- 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 invests in the beans, maize, and orange-fleshed sweet potato to promote food security and improve nutrition. Beans are Rwanda most important food crop grown in terms of areas planted and maize is the third most important. Maize and beans are complementary crops as they are often rotated and require similar drying and storage infrastructure. Feed the Future promotes the production and consumption of vitamin A rich orange-fleshed sweet potato to improve the nutritional status of the Rwandan women and children. Feed the Future expands investments to also include two higher value crops -- Irish potato and horticulture -- to more effectively reduce poverty among smallholder farming families. Feed the Future interventions in these value chains include efforts to facilitate access to improved seeds, technical assistance to farmers to increase productivity, development of a market, including agro-processing, to increase farmers' income.

Markets and Trade. Feed the Future encourages and actively promotes private sector investment in Rwanda's agriculture sector. Feed the Future strengthens 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 also helps expand financial services to the poor, women and microenterprises. Through Feed the Future, the country is increasing its export revenue by connecting producers of export crops, like vegetables, with regional buyers. The initiative 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 helps 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 also helps 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 A-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. Feed the Future partners with the Government of Rwanda to develop and implement policies that foster private sector growth, and raise agricultural productivity. In doing so, Feed the Future encourages more robust dialogue between the Government and the private sector on key issues impeding growth, and provides technical assistance to the Government to pursue evidence-based policy reforms. 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, quality standards, and market information.

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. This is particularly true 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 specifically target women, all reflect the findings and recommendations of this gender strategy in their design and implementation.

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

Results

Results by the Numbers

- Close to **262,000 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 **14,300 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 **\$13 million**.
- Feed the Future leveraged nearly **\$20 million** in new private investment in food and agriculture.
- U.S. Government programs reached **374,000 children** under 5 years old to improve their nutrition.

Impact

- **Poverty:** In Feed the Future target regions, **poverty dropped by 7.5 percent** from 67 percent in 2010 to 62 percent in 2013/14.
- **Nutrition:** In Feed the Future target regions, **child stunting fell by 14.3 percent** from 46 percent in 2010 to 40 percent in 2014/15.

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

Key Achievements

- Feed the Future has fostered \$66 million in new private sector investments in the Rwandan agricultural sector between 2011-2016.
- As part of the effort to eliminate nontariff barriers to trade, Feed the Future helped the Rwandan Standards Board reduce the average testing time for export products from 45 days to 7 days and reduce testing costs by 50 percent, from \$500 to \$250 per sample.
- Feed the Future helped reduce the cost to ship a container from Mombasa, Kenya, to Kigali, Rwanda, by 26 percent.

- Feed the Future helped farmers sell \$132 million in agricultural products and has fostered the export of \$61 million of agricultural commodities between 2011-2016, creating a critical source of foreign exchange in the Rwandan economy for country-owned, sustainable development.
- Feed the Future has helped 11,135 rural small- to medium-sized enterprises access over \$7 million in loans and has created more than 32,000 full-time jobs.
- Feed the Future has helped increase the profit per dairy cow in Rwanda by 53 percent—from about \$162 per cow in 2013 to \$211 in 2016.
- Feed the Future helped farmers produce 7,946 metric tons of iron-biofortified beans and 4,216 metric tons of vitamin A-rich orange-fleshed sweet potato, nutrient-rich commodities in 2016 that helped feed and generate income for 199,687 households representing 958, 498 people.
- Feed the Future helped stabilize more than 16,500 hectares of land that were susceptible to soil erosion since 2013. In addition, USAID helped rehabilitate over 435 hectares of degraded forest lands with nearly 600,000 newly planted trees in 2016.
- Feed the Future supported the installation of hillside irrigation and water harvesting infrastructure on 1,333 hectares of hillside farms, resulting in a more than 400 percent increase in profitability in these areas.

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 2016 (FY16). 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 [Feed the Future Indicator Handbook](#). 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.

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
- Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato for Income and Nutrition activity
- Access to Finance Rwanda
- Gikuriro [well growing child]
- Huguka Dukore Youth Employment Activity
- Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition Marketplace for Nutritious Food
- [Peace Corps](#) Volunteers

- Private Sector-Driven Agricultural Growth
- Rwanda Dairy Competitiveness Project II
- Rwanda Rural Feeder Roads Improvement Program
- Trade Infrastructure Program
- [U.S. African Development Foundation](#)
- USDA-NASS Support to the Government of Rwanda
- [Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture](#)
- [Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems](#)
- East Africa Trade and Investment Hub
- One Acre Fund

Target Regions

Funding

