



OVERVIEW

For generations, the United States has been a leader in providing development assistance across the globe to alleviate suffering and build shared progress and prosperity. But global food price spikes and resulting instability in 2007 and 2008 were a wake-up call: More needed to be done to break the vicious cycle of hunger and poverty.

The answer: Unlock the potential of agriculture as the key to reducing hunger, extreme poverty, and malnutrition through a U.S.-led global movement that became Feed the Future.

At the 2009 G8 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy, President Obama called on global leaders to reverse a three-decade decline in agricultural investment. He also announced increased U.S. investment in global food security. This U.S. commitment helped to leverage more than \$18 billion from other countries and donors, and built on the resources that the United States allocated during the Bush Administration for a near and longer-term response to the food price spikes that focused on boosting agricultural productivity, strengthening supply chains, and promoting sound market-based principles for agriculture sector development and regional trade. This approach built on ongoing efforts by African leaders to invest in and revitalize agriculture as a proven means for pulling people out of poverty. Early success provided a near-term boost to agricultural productivity and increased food availability in West Africa.

What began on a more modest scale in several countries through the Initiative to End Hunger in Africa and strong U.S. leadership to rally leaders to do more across the globe provided the foundation for Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative. Feed the Future has pioneered a comprehensive, global response to address the underlying causes of hunger and malnutrition. Rooted in country leadership, partnerships across sectors, and a focus on achieving results, Feed the Future places an emphasis on supporting smallholder farmers – particularly women – to make an impact today on hunger, poverty, and malnutrition, and is building on early success for a more secure, prosperous tomorrow.

Building on the standard set by the African Union when its members committed to developing comprehensive food security plans, and working together with host country governments, the private sector, researchers, civil society, and

DID YOU KNOW?

- A healthy, productive life requires adequate nutrition. Yet millions of people around the world are undernourished, stunting the growth of both children and economies.
- Globally, more than **800 million people** suffer from chronic hunger, much of which is rooted in poverty.
- The world's population is projected to increase to more than **9 billion** by 2050, requiring up to a **60 percent increase** in agricultural production.
- Research shows that agricultural growth is, on average, **at least twice** as effective in reducing poverty compared to growth in other sectors.

development organizations, Feed the Future is informed by a whole-of-government approach involving 11 federal departments and agencies, led by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The momentum to achieve the long-term vision of Feed the Future – a world where the scourge of hunger, poverty, and malnutrition no longer threaten the peace and prosperity of millions – is strong. U.S. leadership and meaningful partnerships have been integral to driving the progress that Feed the Future has made in just a few years.

The recent Ebola crisis emphasized the urgent need to work toward eliminating extreme poverty and chronic hunger, which are key drivers of such crises. Poverty can allow a single case to become an outbreak and turn an outbreak into an epidemic. Long-term food security, which the U.S. Government supports through Feed the Future, is essential to combating poverty in developing countries. It builds long-term stability and security and mitigates the impacts of future crises.

RESULTS

- **WORLDWIDE:** In 2013, Feed the Future helped more than 7 million smallholder farmers access new tools and technologies to help them improve yields and boost incomes. Feed the Future also reached 12.5 million children with nutrition interventions. In 2014, Feed the Future support enabled smallholder farmers in targeted countries to earn more than \$530 million in new sales of agriculture products—representing a three-fold increase over the previous year.
- **ZAMBIA:** Feed the Future played a key role in the record maize harvest for the 2013/14 cropping season (3.4 million metric tons – a 32 percent increase over the previous year's total) through policy advocacy and by helping smallholder farmers access agricultural inputs such as improved seeds and fertilizers through private sector providers.
- **ETHIOPIA:** Feed the Future and other U.S. Government programs are making progress toward achieving real reductions in stunting in Ethiopia. A recent nationwide survey shows stunting rates declined by over 9 percent over the past three years, even as the population grew, resulting in 160,000 fewer stunted children.
- **HONDURAS:** More than 4,300 families are now well above the \$1.25-per-day poverty line, thanks in part to Feed the Future's efforts, which increased horticulture sales by 125 percent last year.
- **BANGLADESH:** Feed the Future reached 3.3 million smallholder farmers with improved seed, fertilizer and farm management practices, helping farmers increase rice yields by as much as 20 percent and creating additional rice sales of \$25 million.