



## FEED THE FUTURE AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Feed the Future, the U.S. government's global hunger and food security initiative, is establishing a foundation for lasting progress against global hunger. With a focus on smallholder farmers, Feed the Future supports partner countries in developing their agriculture sectors to spur economic growth that increases incomes and reduces hunger, poverty, and undernutrition. Feed the Future efforts are driven by country-led priorities and rooted in partnership with governments, donor organizations, the private sector, and civil society to enable long-term success. Feed the Future aims to assist millions of vulnerable women, men, and children to escape hunger and poverty, while reaching significant numbers of young children with effective nutrition interventions to prevent stunting and child mortality.



Credit: APIimages

interventions tailored to specific sectors or parts of society. **CSOs intermediate** between donors and local communities, bringing interventions to communities that would otherwise be hard to reach or doubtful about change. **CSOs influence** governments, the private sector, other CSOs, and the public, increasing awareness of food security and nutrition priorities and advocating for resources. CSOs also help vulnerable populations become influential by training them to advocate for their own interests. **CSOs involve** governments, the private sector, and other civil society organizations in unique partnerships to further our collective progress against global food insecurity.

When launching the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative (AFSI) in July 2009, world leaders stated that "the increased involvement of civil society... is a key factor of success." CSOs remind governments of their AFSI commitments, strengthening accountability. And in the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, CSOs help all stakeholders monitor the trust fund's investments so partner countries see maximum results.

### Engagement to Further Progress

Civil society organizations (CSOs) in donor and partner countries bring a wealth of ideas, energy, and resources to the fight against global food insecurity and undernutrition. Civil society is critical to the success of Feed the Future, through the diversity of activities CSOs undertake: **CSOs implement** programs funded by donor and partner country governments and their own private resources. **CSOs innovate**, developing novel food security and nutrition

### STAKEHOLDER SPOTLIGHT

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and leaders from Ireland, the United Nations, and many other organizations launched the 1,000 Days partnership in 2010 to mobilize governments, civil society, and the private sector to improve nutrition in the critical 1,000 days from pregnancy through a child's second birthday. 1,000 Days works in partnership with InterAction and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, in close collaboration with the U.S. Department of State. 1,000 Days supports the Scaling Up Nutrition movement to coordinate and accelerate international efforts to combat undernutrition.



## Contributions to Success

In **Senegal**, Feed the Future is engaging over 350 community nutrition volunteers who teach families to prepare nutritious meals and practice good hygiene. This program has helped farmers improve agricultural practices in over 80 community demonstration gardens. By identifying locally-grown, nutritious foods, these workers are helping reduce micronutrient deficiencies in children in over 350 villages.



Credit: Fintrac, Inc.

Landslides and major flooding damaged **Nepal's** Terai region in 2007 and 2008, with disastrous impact on smallholder farmers. Under Feed the Future, the Nepal Flood Recovery Program rehabilitated roads, irrigation channels, and other infrastructure – and trained farmers and families in improved agriculture practices and nutrition – helping bring small farms back to life. So far, the program has worked with 51 local NGOs and private organizations and over 12,000 Nepalese farmers to raise farmers' net sales per hectare eight-fold.

## THE WAY FORWARD

The U.S. government will soon launch an action plan to ensure effective, creative engagement of civil society in Feed the Future countries. Under this plan, the U.S. government will champion new technologies for broad-based dialogue with CSOs; foster creation of new partnerships among CSOs, donors, the private sector, and partner governments; and promote best practices in CSO capacity development and service delivery. Success of the action plan will be seen in stronger CSOs in our partner countries, better equipped to manage their food security as a result of our joint efforts.