

GENERAL BACKGROUND ON FEED THE FUTURE INITIATIVE

The Feed the Future Initiative was created to address the immense challenges facing the global food and agricultural system. Currently 1 billion people suffer from chronic hunger, mostly in Sub-Saharan African and South East Asia. By 2050, the global population will reach 9 billion and global food demand will increase by 40 to 70% depending on the level of income growth in poor countries.

In spring 2009, the Obama Administration launched Feed the Future with a pledge of \$3.5 billion over the next three years; other members of the G8 and the G20 pledged an additional \$18.5 billion. The United States is expected to contribute over \$800 million toward the initiative in FY 2010. The Feed the Future initiative brings additional resources and better alignment of donor and multi-lateral coordination to the fight against global hunger, the longer term challenges of global food security, and building future markets. Members of the G8 and G20 agreed to invest according to a new set of guiding principles. These include supporting country led plans, comprehensively addressing the root causes of food insecurity, increasing coordination, utilizing the strength of multi-lateral institutions, and making sustained and accountable commitments.

The operating definition of food security (as agreed upon by all members of the FAO) is when all people at all times have access to safe and sufficient food to meet their dietary needs for a productive and healthy life. There are four main components: availability, accessibility, utilization, and stability of food supply. Food security is not the same as food self-sufficiency; the initiative and USDA supports an international system based upon commerce and trade.

The Initiative is dependent on country-led plans and donor coordination. The initiative also will draw upon the expertise of the entire US government and coordinate the USG engagement in focus countries. Twenty countries have been selected as “focus” countries. The USG will make additional investments in these countries’ food and agricultural sectors, depending on their level of readiness. Phase One countries will receive technical assistance and capacity building to enable them to generate strategic plans and lay the groundwork for investments. Phase Two countries will receive additional investment for core activities designed to sustainably contribute toward agricultural-led growth once they have developed a comprehensive and technically sound plan. The Focus Countries are:

Region	Countries
Asia	Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Tajikistan
Latin America	Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua
Africa	Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

There will also be a few “strategic partnership countries” - middle income countries that can provide South-South technical assistance, or serve as regional growth hubs. These countries will not receive significant financial resources, but funding will be available to facilitate their participation in the initiative. Initial strategic partners include Brazil, India and South Africa. Because many of these countries are coordinating their development plans through regional organizations (such as the Economic Community of West African States), the initiative will also work with these bodies.