

PRIVATE SECTOR PEER LEARNING: PARTNERSHIP PROFILES

Feed the Future

Description: [Feed the Future](#) is the US government's global hunger and food security initiative that addresses the root causes of poverty, hunger and undernutrition. It transforms the agricultural sector – from farms to markets to tables – through country-led priorities and partnerships with governments, donor organisations, the private sector and civil society.

Objectives: Feed the Future seeks to promote inclusive growth in the agricultural sector and improve nutritional status, particularly for women and children. By improving food security, the initiative intends to reduce both the prevalence of poverty and stunted children – a measure of undernutrition – by 20%. These objectives can be achieved by policies and programmes that: 1) boost the harvests and incomes of rural smallholder farmers; 2) improve agricultural research and development and increase access to technologies; 3) generate opportunities for economic growth and increase access to markets and trade; 4) build resilience to reoccurring crises; and 5) support gains in nutrition. Five principles guide activities – country-owned plans, co-ordination among stakeholders, reforms to increase aid effectiveness, comprehensive approaches that address root causes and respond to emergencies, and progress measurement with an annual scorecard.

Partners: Feed the Future draws on the agricultural, trade, investment, development and policy resources and expertise of 11 US federal agencies, which partner with 19 host governments in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean that were selected based on their levels of need and opportunities for partnership and economic growth. The initiative also works with civil society, the private sector and research institutions. Civil society organisations that have local connections and development expertise are offered procurement and grant opportunities. Private sector actors that have shared values, financial resources and the technical expertise to create public goods or achieve business and development objectives are offered matching funds, technical assistance, access to credit, and the physical infrastructure and policy environment that fosters growth in emerging economies. Researchers with knowledge on sustainable intensification, increasing productivity, food safety and nutrition, and enabling environments are eligible to respond to calls for applications and concept notes. Among others, public-private partnerships currently include the Coffee Farmer Resilience Fund, which leverages USD 23 million in financial assistance for more than 40 000 coffee farmers combating the coffee rust outbreak in Latin America and the Caribbean, and a partnership between DuPont, the government of Ethiopia and Feed the Future, which work together to increase maize productivity in Ethiopia by helping farmers adopt improved seed varieties, reducing post-harvest losses, expanding access to credit and inputs, and building the capacities of extension services to disseminate skills and best practices to farmers.

Key activities: Public-private partnership projects are co-designed, co-funded and co-implemented and the risks, responsibilities and rewards of partnerships are shared. Private sector partners must invest cash or a combination of cash and in-kind contributions (e.g. commodities, facilities, technical consultant and staff time, technology and communication assets, and intellectual property rights). There are six types of partnerships including competitive grants to work with implementing partners, loan guarantees and requests for proposals. Projects may address value chain sectors that deal with investing in people and productivity (e.g. capacity building), transforming development by incentivising investment (e.g. policy reform), improving market function (e.g. reducing post-harvest losses), increasing access to nutritious foods (e.g. nutrition education) or a specific commodity. The Feed the Future “Opportunity Explorer” is an online tool that helps determine partnership suitability and can be used by partners to register their interest in partnering. If a potential alignment of interests exists, applicants are contacted, partnerships may be established within six to 12 months and implementation usually lasts from two to five years.

Monitoring and evaluation: Feed the Future projects are monitored and evaluated by the US government. The initiative's results framework includes outcome indicators that are used by all participating government institutions.

Development Assistance Committee member: United States

Budget: USD 3.5 billion

Duration: Ongoing since 2010

Location: Global, 19 countries

Sectors: Agriculture, nutrition and food security

Activities: Policy, advocacy, technical support, nutritional programming, loan guarantees and matching grants

Beneficiaries: Smallholder farmers, women and children

Results: Regarding inclusive growth, Feed the Future helped more than 7 million smallholder farmers to access new tools and technologies and, in turn, improve yields and boost incomes in 2013. In 2014, the initiative enabled smallholder farmers to earn USD 530 million in new sales of agricultural products – a three-fold increase over the previous year. Regarding nutritional status, the initiative reached 12.5 million children with nutrition interventions in 2014. Overall, the programme has contributed to reductions in childhood stunting – 9% in Ethiopia, 14.4% in Bangladesh, 21% in Cambodia, 25% in Kenya and 33% in Ghana. It has led to reductions in poverty – 16% in rural Uganda, 16% in Bangladesh and 27% for Honduran recipients who rose above the threshold of extreme poverty (USD 1.25 [purchasing power parity] per day).

Insights: Feed the Future harnesses resources from across the US government and strategically engages civil society, private sector and research partners. To ensure effective reporting, all government institutions participating in the initiative use the same outcome indicators across partnerships and projects.

SOURCES:

Feed the Future (2015a), “Achieving impact: Leadership and partnership to Feed the Future”, Feed the Future, Washington, DC, <https://feedthefuture.gov/progress2015>.

Feed the Future (2015b), “Overview” (fact sheet), Feed the Future, Washington, DC, https://feedthefuture.gov/sites/default/files/resource/files/factsheet_feedthefuture_overview_april2015.pdf.

Feed the Future (2014), “Feed the Future civil society action plan”.

Feed the Future, Washington, DC, <https://feedthefuture.gov/resource/feed-future-civil-society-action-plan>.

Feed the Future (2013), “Feed the Future results framework”, Feed the Future, Washington, DC, <https://feedthefuture.gov/resource/feed-future-results-framework>.

Feed the Future (n.d.a.), “Approach”, <https://feedthefuture.gov/approach> (accessed 1 July 2016).

Feed the Future (n.d.b.), “Civil society”, <https://feedthefuture.gov/civilsociety> (accessed 1 July 2016).

Feed the Future (n.d.c.), Feed the Future website, <https://feedthefuture.gov> (accessed 1 July 2016).

Feed the Future (n.d.d.), “Partner highlights”, <https://feedthefuture.gov/partnership-stories> (accessed 1 July 2016).

Feed the Future (n.d.e.), “Private Sector Engagement Hub: Get started”, <https://feedthefuture.gov/private-sector-engagement-hub/get-started> (accessed 1 July 2016).

USAID (2015), “Partnering for impact: USAID and the private sector”, United States Agency for International Development, Washington, DC, <https://www.usaid.gov/documents/15396/partnering-impact-report-usaid-and-private-sector>.

USAID (28 July 2015), “President Obama announces major progress through Feed the Future initiative” (press release), www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases.