



KENYA Fact Sheet

FEED THE FUTURE AT A GLANCE

Feed the Future, the U.S. government’s global hunger and food security initiative, is a \$3.5 billion commitment to support country-driven approaches to address the root causes of poverty, hunger, and undernutrition. A whole-of-government initiative led by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Feed the Future leverages the strengths of multilateral institutions, civil society, and the private sector. Globally we aim to assist 18 million vulnerable women, children, and family members – mostly smallholder farmers – escape hunger and poverty. Together, we will increase agricultural productivity, decrease poverty, drive economic growth, and reduce undernutrition to improve millions of lives.

Kenya Quick Facts

- Population: 41 million
- Population below poverty line: 50%
- Workforce employed in agriculture: >75%
- GDP from agriculture: 51%

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Agriculture is the backbone of Kenya’s economy and central to the Government of Kenya (GOK) development strategy. Yet only about 20% of the country is arable and productivity remains low. Most farmers work without modern seeds and technology or adequate financial or extension services.

The population is growing by about a million people per year. This growth, combined with stagnant agricultural productivity and limited arable land, poses critical challenges to food security. Kenya faces chronic food shortages; each year, two to four million people receive food aid. In addition, the total number of those considered poor has increased: from 15.2 million in 1999 to 17.8 million in 2009. Furthermore 35% of children under five years old are stunted due to undernutrition.

OPPORTUNITIES

Kenya’s agricultural sector employs over 75% of the workforce and accounts for approximately 51% of Kenya’s GDP. Because so many rural people farm and/or herd, improving agricultural productivity and income is the key to increasing incomes, achieving food security and improving nutritional status. The sector could grow significantly if irrigation, road, agricultural inputs, extension, marketing, and policy constraints can be addressed.

Recent research by the GOK and others found that increased productivity of the major staples (particularly maize) has the highest impact on GDP, followed by livestock, vegetables, fruits, and oilseeds. While demand for maize currently exceeds production, USAID projects demonstrate that there is great potential for maize yield increases within this sector through improved drought resistant varieties and farming practices.

With the largest dairy herd in East and Southern Africa and a relatively well-developed industry, Kenya is in an excellent position to

meet the growing local demand for milk as well as target the regional market.

Kenya’s horticulture industry is a leading African exporter of fresh produce to Europe. Kenyan producers – including women and youth – are well placed to meet global demand for new value-added products, as well as the expanding local and regional markets for fresh produce, valued at \$2 billion.

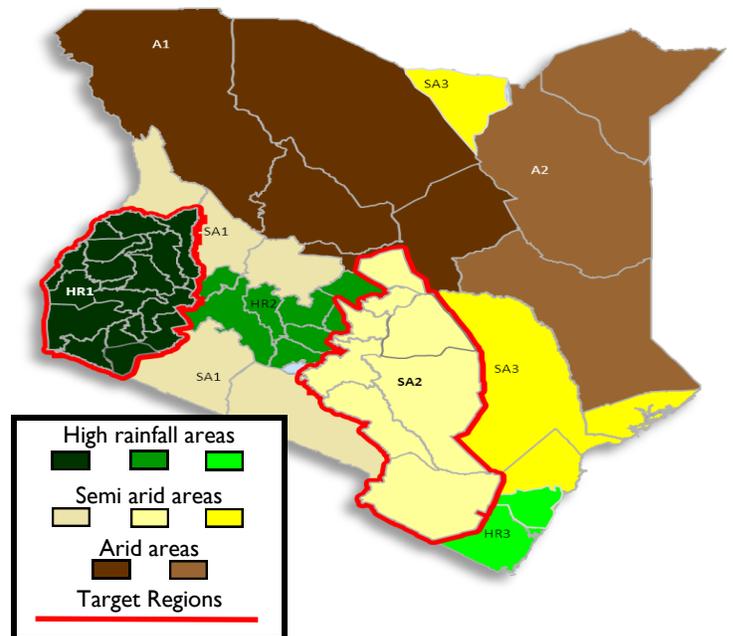
Kenya’s 2009-2020 Agricultural Sector Development Strategy (ASDS) is the nation’s agricultural sector roadmap. It aligns with the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) as well as Vision 2030—the GOK’s plan to develop Kenya into a medium-income country by 2030. The combination of the GOK’s well-researched agricultural strategy, its Medium-Term Implementation Plan, and a new constitution that promotes accountability has set the stage for significant progress in the next decade.

KEY OBJECTIVES

Feed the Future aims to promote value chain growth and diversification to increase the GDP, small-scale farmers’ income, and nutritional status and economic opportunities for women, youth, and other vulnerable populations.

TARGET REGIONS

Feed the Future is targeting **high-rainfall areas** with dense populations, high poverty, and malnourishment, as well as **semi-arid areas**. Both areas have great potential for raising agricultural productivity. Our target areas also encompass the highest concentrations of malnourished children, female-headed households, and rural poor.



FEED THE FUTURE: IMPACT IN KENYA

Over the next five years:

- An estimated 550,000 vulnerable Kenyan women, children, and family members—mostly smallholder farmers - will receive targeted assistance to escape hunger and poverty
- More than 230,000 children will be reached with services to improve their nutrition and prevent stunting and child mortality
- Significant numbers of additional rural populations will achieve improved income and nutritional status from strategic policy engagement and institutional investments.

CORE INVESTMENTS

Value Chains

The U.S. is focusing its efforts on improving several key agricultural value chains: horticulture, dairy, and maize for the High Rainfall (HR)¹ areas, and drought-tolerant crops (sorghum/millet and root crop systems), drought-tolerant maize, horticulture, and pulses for Semi-Arid (SA)². Attention is focused on every “link” in the value chain—from inputs like fertilizer and seeds, to credit, to production methods, storage, transport, processing, farmers’ cooperatives, and markets in Kenya, East Africa, and overseas.

Maize is grown by 98% of rural farm households and makes up a large share of crop income. Even small gains in productivity will have major benefits throughout rural Kenya that will generate important “multiplier effects.”

Fresh fruit and vegetable value chains are growing in importance for Kenyan producers and consumers. Fruits and vegetables can gross 2 to 7 times more than staple crops, and they provide essential nutrients missing in the staples.

Dairy products are produced by 1.8 million farm households – 70% of them smallholders. Demand for dairy in Kenya exceeds 80 kg per person per year. In fact, Kenyans of all income levels spend more on milk products than on any other food item.

Innovation

Like a venture-capital fund, the Kenya Feed the Future Innovation Engine (KFIE) will seek out, incubate, and scale up innovative, proven private-sector strategies that support food security and nutrition. Potential investments may include agriculture research, extension services, communications-technology, farm input distributors, or other value adding enterprises.

Science and Technology

U.S. support to the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) focuses on research on crops for the semi-arid zone, including improved seeds, pest control, and food safety for maize, sorghum, millet, sweet potato, cowpea, and pigeon pea. We will also be working with the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS) to increase quality and availability of drought-tolerant crops and varieties.

Finance

Feed the Future will expand access to rural and farm finance, partly by working with Kenyan banks to develop financial products for the rural poor, particularly women and youth, so they can move beyond subsistence farming into business. We will scale up current

efforts, including loan guarantees from the Development Credit Authority, Global Development Alliances, and the DFID-supported Value Chain Finance Center to leverage the financial resources and knowledge of local businesses.

Policy Dialogue Agenda

The U.S. engages with the GOK on its policy reform agenda to:

- Work with the GOK and the East African Community to harmonize national and regional trade policies, including the abatement of high tariffs on grain imports;
- Work with the GOK to develop and strengthen policies related to grades and standards, and input supply;
- Assist the GOK’s implementation of the National Land Policy to support a tenure system that provides for greater tenure security and equity for individuals and communities while enabling sustainable use of land and natural resources.

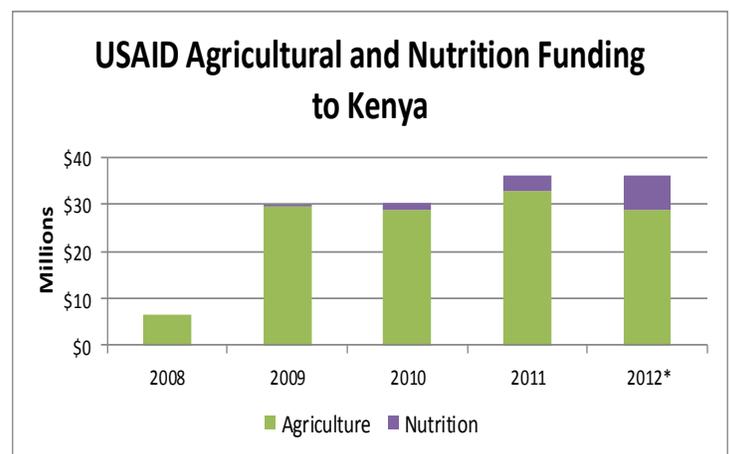
ENGAGING WOMEN AND YOUTH

Feed the Future supports activities that empower women and improve the nutritional status of women and children. An estimated 44% of Kenya’s smallholder households are managed by women, and women are active at every point in the food chain. Their contribution to commodities, grown mainly in home gardens, is quite significant, providing essential nutrients and often the only food available during the lean seasons or when the main harvest fails.

Feed the Future will also engage youth in farming, processing, and trading to relieve high levels of youth unemployment. Over 67% of the under- and unemployed in Kenya are young women and men aged 15-30 years.

WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH

Feed the Future coordinates across the U.S. Government so that our investments, resources, and programs are harmonized for greater collective impact. This interagency engagement, led by USAID, includes collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Treasury Department, Millennium Challenge Corporation, U.S. African Development Foundation, U.S. Trade Representative, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and Peace Corps.



*2012 is included in the President’s budget request to Congress and not yet approved