



## Feed the Future Country Fact Sheet

Online Version: <https://www.feedthefuture.gov/country/malawi>

COUNTRY PROFILE				
 <b>Malawi</b>				
In Malawi, Feed the Future is targeting investments in specific regions for maximum impact. These statistics reflect the realities of Malawi and the results of Feed the Future's work there.				
POPULATION	POVERTY	STUNTING	RURAL	GDP
<b>4.9</b>	<b>66.7</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>5</b>
Million	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Number of people living in Feed the Future target regions in Malawi (rural)	Percentage of people living in poverty in Feed the Future target regions (rural)	Percentage of children under 5 suffering from stunting in Feed the Future target regions (rural)	Percentage of population living in rural Malawi (World Bank, 2012)	Annual GDP growth; agriculture accounts for 27% of added value (World Bank, 2013)
FARMERS	SALES	NUTRITION	LAND	INVESTMENT
<b>198</b>	<b>\$1.8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>\$1.5</b>
Thousand	Million	Million	Thousand	Million
Producers using new technology and practices with Feed the Future's help in FY14	New income earned by Feed the Future farmers in FY14 from agricultural product sales	Children under 5 reached with nutrition help in FY14 across Malawi	Hectares tended with improved technologies or management practices in FY14	New private investment leveraged by Feed the Future in FY14

## Approach

The Government of Malawi has elevated agriculture and nutrition as key national policy priorities. The country has demonstrated leadership through stable governance and economic growth. However, high population density and growth, along with a single rainy season per year, pose distinct challenges that make Malawi's agricultural growth precarious and make the country chronically susceptible to food insecurity.

The agriculture sector represents over 38 percent of gross domestic product and employs 80 percent of Malawi's population. However, only 10-15 percent of smallholders are marketing grain each year. A litany of challenges, including small land holdings, a poorly developed seed sector, weak agricultural extension services, limited access to finance, uncertainty due to climate change, and significant policy constraints, hampers the transformation of Malawi's agriculture sector.

Partly as a result of these challenges, over half the population of Malawi lives below the poverty line. While overall poverty rates and caloric intake have improved in recent years, high rates of undernutrition, HIV/AIDS and malaria, as well as underdeveloped markets and low agricultural productivity, inhibit food security and economic development.

Malawi has benefited from decades of peace and security, but high freight costs, damaged infrastructure and unpredictable economic policies have hampered efforts to increase and diversify both regional and international trade. Lack of access to improved water sources and proper sanitation systems contributes to cholera outbreaks during the rainy season.

To address these challenges and leverage opportunities, Malawi has developed the Agricultural Sector-Wide Approach through a consultative process with stakeholders and has made targeted commitments under the Comprehensive Africa

Agriculture Development Program. Feed the Future activities complement Malawi's own efforts to improve food security and nutrition and reduce poverty by helping develop value chains, improve nutritional options and create an enabling policy environment.

## Strategy

Goal: Reduce the prevalence of poverty in rural areas of Feed the Future target districts by 20 percent.

- 2011 baseline: 66.7 percent
- 2017 target: 53.4 percent
- [How we calculate](#)

Goal: Reduce the prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years old in rural areas of Feed the Future target districts by 20 percent.

- 2010 baseline: 49.2 percent
- 2017 target: 39.4 percent
- [How we calculate](#)

To achieve its goals, Feed the Future is making key investments to:

- Improve the nutritional status of women and children
- Expand agricultural trade
- Increase production and consumption of groundnuts and soy
- Scale up the cultivation and consumption of orange-fleshed sweet potatoes
- Engage the Government of Malawi to improve the policy environment

Feed the Future is focusing its efforts in targeted regions and value chains to maximize impact.

### Value Chains

- Legumes
- Groundnuts
- Orange-fleshed sweet potatoes

### Target Regions

- Rural populations living in the Dedza, Mchinji, Lilongwe, Ntcheu, Mangochi, Balaka and Machinga districts in the Central and Southern Regions
- New development food assistance programs will work in these additional, highly food-insecure districts in the Southern Region: Nsanje, Chikwawa and Blantyre Rural

## Program Highlights

**Value Chain Approach.** Feed the Future investments in the legume and orange-fleshed sweet potato value chains are designed to boost their market competitiveness and promote agricultural diversification. These value chains have the potential to expand markets, benefit livelihoods, diversify diets, boost resilience to climate change, and leverage donor support in Malawi. Feed the Future facilitates a range of services within these value chains, including access to quality inputs, promotion of improved agronomic practices, and collective marketing. Feed the Future focuses on strengthening the capacity of local organizations and the private sector to provide value chain services and address the needs of farmers, emphasizing the creation of sustainable models of service provision. A promising component of Feed the Future is the promotion of structured and transparent commodity trading systems. By linking smallholder farmers and producer organizations with domestic and regional buyers, Feed the Future is helping farmers increase the incomes they receive from their crops.

**Resilience.** Malawi is prone to natural disasters, such as droughts and floods, leading to food insecurity in many parts of the country. Feed the Future supports early warning systems that improve the quantity, quality and timeliness of information and predictions of food security and other threats. These systems monitor and assess environmental and socio-economic hazards that affect market price trends, nutrition and cross-border trade. Feed the Future is helping families increase their resilience by diversifying away from growing maize monocultures to use more climate-resilient crops like legumes and orange-fleshed sweet potatoes. This includes increasing the availability of and smallholder farmers' access to drought-tolerant maize varieties.

**Nutrition.** Feed the Future supports Malawi's National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan through interventions designed to promote nutrition-sensitive, agricultural productivity and build the capacity of local health workers and organizations. Feed the Future's nutrition-related activities leverage and complement value chain investments through targeted programs at the local level. They focus on behavior change and capacity building with district-level health workers to intensify messaging about essential nutrition actions, such as exclusive breastfeeding, improved sanitation and hygiene practices, vitamin A supplementation and improved feeding for pregnant women, infants and young children. In 2011, Malawi joined the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement and the 1,000 Days partnership, which focus on reducing undernutrition in children from the critical window between pregnancy and a child's second birthday. Feed the Future is also implementing community "care groups" that deliver nutrition education in the same communities that benefit from value chain interventions. As smallholder farmers increase production of nutrient-rich crops, healthy foods become more available to their communities. Care groups promote nutrition, sanitation and hygiene-related practices that, when incorporated with increased availability of nutritious foods, leads to better diets, dietary diversity and better sanitation and hygiene. This, in turn, helps improve the nutrition status of women and children.

**Gender Integration.** Feed the Future encourages increased female participation in decision-making and control of resources. Both the legume and orange-fleshed sweet potato value chains in which Feed the Future is investing have high female participation and provide significant opportunities to support women's economic empowerment. Feed the Future takes gender-based roles and responsibilities into account when analyzing value chain opportunities, constraints and advocacy to identify ways to enhance male and female involvement in improved household nutrition and value chain interventions.

**Policy.** Feed the Future is working with the Government of Malawi to advance priority actions identified in its New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition Cooperation Framework that support policies to improve agricultural inputs, agricultural trade, institutional architecture and nutrition. Feed the Future is helping strengthen policy systems to ensure that the Government of Malawi has sound information and analysis on which to base policy development. Feed the Future is also strengthening the Government of Malawi's capacity to implement, monitor and evaluate agriculture and nutrition programs. Feed the Future is also helping Malawian civil society organizations engaged in the agriculture sector to build their institutional capacity and develop their advocacy, policy analysis and communication strategies to improve their participation in the policy dialogue.

**Scaling Innovations.** Feed the Future is focusing on scaling up production of specific crops and agricultural practices in Malawi to benefit smallholder farmers and improve nutrition, including:

- Cultivation of **improved soybean varieties**, which will provide higher yields for smallholder farmers, improve soil fertility, and increase smallholder participation in the growing commercial market for soy in Malawi and the region.
- The increased use of **doubled-up legume cropping systems**, an agriculture management practice that enhances the nitrogen-fixing benefits of legume crops, which has significant potential to improve soil fertility, thereby increasing yields and enhancing food security.
- The scaling up of **orange-fleshed sweet potato** varieties, which will have a significant impact on resilience to climate change, nutrition and women's empowerment in Malawi. Increased consumption of sweet potatoes can improve vitamin A and energy intake.

## Results

### Results by the numbers

- More than **197,700 farmers and other producers** applied new technologies and management practices for the first time on their farms last year with Feed the Future's help.
- Producers applied improved technologies and management practices on **44,350 hectares** of land with Feed the Future's help last year.
- Feed the Future-supported farmers and producers increased the value of their agricultural product sales last year by more than **\$1.8 million**.
- Feed the Future leveraged more than **\$1.47 million** in new private investment in food and agriculture in Malawi.
- U.S. Government programs reached more than **2 million children** under 5 years old to improve their nutrition.

### What you need to know about these results

These results reflect information from USAID, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Peace Corps, U.S. African Development Foundation and the U.S. Department of the Treasury (through the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program) reported into Feed the Future's central monitoring system for FY14. For more information on the indicators above, please view our

[FY14 Feed the Future progress report](#). All dollar amounts are listed in U.S. dollars.

## Opportunities

Malawi's Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program Country Investment Plan outlines the Government of Malawi's plans to address food insecurity and spur agriculture-led growth. The Government of Malawi has developed a National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan that is closely linked with this plan. Together, these plans coordinate food security programming at the national and community levels.

The U.S. Government works closely with the European Union to support the Government of Malawi in implementing the [New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition](#) Cooperation Framework. This framework brings together the government, private sector and development partners to develop a plan to accelerate private sector investment and commercialization of Malawi's agriculture sector. Under the New Alliance, Malawi has made 35 policy commitments to improve the enabling environment for agriculture.

*Looking for opportunities to work in our Feed the Future countries? Visit the opportunities tabs on our [Research](#) and [Civil Society](#) pages.*

*If you're a [private sector](#) company interested in a partnership with Feed the Future agencies in the areas of food security and nutrition in Malawi, use our [interactive online tool](#) to learn more, register your partnership ideas with us and get connected to a partnership expert who can help address your interest.*

## Activities

Feed the Future supports the following programs, partnerships and organizations in Malawi.

- Agriculture Sector-Wide Approach Multi-Donor Trust Fund
- Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
- Borlaug Higher Education Agricultural Research and Development (BHEARD)
- Donor Committee on Agriculture and Food Security (DCAFS) Coordinator
- Enabling Agricultural Trade
- Famine and Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET)
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Climate-Resilient Beans
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Assets and Market Access
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Grain Legumes
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Horticulture
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Nutrition in Africa
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Peanut Productivity and Mycotoxin Control
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Soybean Value Chain Research
- Global Agriculture and Food Security Program
- Integrating Nutrition in Value Chains
- International Fertilizer Development Center
- Malawi Agriculture Policy Strengthening (MAPS)
- Mobile Money Acceleration Program
- Modernizing Extension and Advisory Services
- Peace Corps Small Project Assistance
- Program for Biosafety Systems
- Strengthening Evidence-Based Agriculture Policy (SEBAP)
- Support for Service Delivery Integration (SSDI)
- U.S. African Development Foundation
- USDA McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program
- U.S.-India-Africa Trilateral Agriculture Innovations Partnership

**Target Regions**

**Funding**

