



Feed the Future Country Fact Sheet

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

COUNTRY PROFILE



Mali

In Mali, Feed the Future is targeting investments in specific regions for maximum impact. These statistics reflect the realities of Mali and the results of Feed the Future's work there.

POPULATION	POVERTY	STUNTING	RURAL	GDP
2.4 Million Number of people who live in Feed the Future target regions in Mali	51.6 Percent Percentage of population living below the poverty line in Feed the Future target regions in Mali	40.3 Percent Percentage of children under 5 suffering from stunting in Feed the Future target regions in Mali	62 Percent Percentage of population living in rural Mali (World Bank, 2013)	2.1 Percent Annual GDP growth. Agriculture accounts for 42.3 percent of added value (World Bank, 2013)
FARMERS	SALES	NUTRITION	LAND	CREDIT
86 Thousand Producers using new technology & skills with Feed the Future's help in FY14	2 Million New income earned by Feed the Future farmers in FY14 from agricultural product sales	93.5 Thousand Children under 5 reached with nutrition help in FY14	60.6 Thousand Hectares tended with improved technologies or management practices in FY14	\$3.1 Million Value of new loans to Feed the Future Farmers in FY14

Approach

A coup d'état in 2012, followed by a takeover of Northern Mali by Islamic extremists, led to the suspension of most U.S. Government foreign assistance to this West African nation in 2012 and 2013 and a reduction of Mali's Feed the Future budget by 65 percent in 2014. A French-led military intervention in early 2013 ousted the extremists and the country democratically elected a new president and legislature prior to the end of 2013. The operating environment continues to be difficult, however, with ongoing security problems in the north and the potential for a reoccurrence of the Ebola virus entering from neighboring countries. Despite these challenges and a sharply reduced budget, Feed the Future is helping Mali achieve progress in the agriculture sector.

The agriculture sector is the cornerstone of Mali's economy and holds great promise for broad-based economic growth and improving livelihoods. Around 80 percent of the population depends on agriculture for a living.

Although much of the country is arid, the Niger River provides a rich base for agricultural development. The southern region has a lush subtropical climate, making it an ideal location for diversified agriculture and livestock. Localized successes in agricultural intensification and marketing demonstrate that, with improved technologies, better soil and water management, local community engagement, and an enhanced enabling environment, Mali's agricultural potential can be harnessed to feed its population, generate economic growth, and spur regional trade.

Yet agricultural yields in Mali vary considerably year to year and by region, due to variable rainfall, decreasing soil fertility, and, recently, political and security concerns. The country also has high rates of malnutrition, which contribute to poor

health, high rates of infant and child mortality, and diminished economic productivity. Malian diets are cereal-based and have little diversity in terms of fruits and vegetables or sources of animal protein.

The social dynamics of gender and income distribution in the household, low educational attainment, cultural norms, and access to and use of health services all contribute to low overall health and nutrition. However, Government of Mali's increased recognition of nutrition's importance has resulted in renewed commitment to address it: Nutrition now is an integral part of the government's Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy currently under formulation.

Strategy

Goal: Reduce prevalence of poverty in the areas where Feed the Future works in Mali by 15 percent.

Goal: Reduce the prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years old in the areas where Feed the Future works in Mali by 20 percent.

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

- Strengthen target value chains
- Address high levels of malnutrition and low dietary diversity
- Improve the enabling environment for agricultural trade and investment
- Build capacity among farmers, the private sector, civil society, and public institutions

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

Value Chains

- Millet
- Sorghum
- Rice
- Livestock

Target Regions

Feed the Future focuses its activities in 113 communes in the following areas in Mali:

- Sikasso
- Mopti
- Timbuktu
- Two communes in Segou

Due to the security situation, Feed the Future activities are currently confined to those communes in Segou, southern Mopti, and Sikasso.

Program Highlights

Value Chain Approach. Feed the Future is targeting value chains that have the highest impact on individual Malians: rice, millet and sorghum (cereals) as well as sheep, goats and cattle (livestock). Cereals provide the bulk of the diet for most Malians, particularly for the poor. Most cereal production is consumed locally and farmers rely on it for food and income. Livestock, in contrast, is one of Mali's top exports. While there is domestic demand—primarily in larger cities which have the refrigerator capacity to store meat—most livestock is exported live to neighboring countries, providing a major source of income for pastoralists and the country as a whole. Feed the Future is helping build these key sectors from start to finish, from increasing the production capacity of smallholder farmers and pastoralists, to increasing business skills and access to credit for processors and traders, to working with the government to improve the business enabling environment to foster trade and local, regional and international investment.

Nutrition. Nutrition underlies many of Feed the Future's activities in Mali. Through Feed the Future's large-scale value chain programs as well as programs specifically focused on nutrition-sensitive agriculture, Feed the Future is encouraging the production and consumption of nutritious foods. Feed the Future and its partners are coupling technical training in vegetable production and post-harvest handling with behavior change communication on dietary diversity, food preparation and hygiene. Feed the Future is sharing better small animal husbandry techniques while encouraging greater local consumption of nutrient-dense meat. By addressing nutrition from an economic perspective *and* as a health concern, Feed the Future is ensuring that investments in decreasing malnutrition last beyond the life of the initiative's programs.

Gender Integration. Feed the Future continues to promote and integrate women farmers throughout target value chains in Mali, particularly rice, which is traditionally a women's crop, as well as through gardening activities, which are essential to efforts to improve nutrition and are also traditionally controlled by women. Activities include training women farmers on new technologies, such as judicious use of fertilizer (micro-dosing), improved soil and water management, and the System of Rice Intensification. In addition to technical trainings, women are also participants in literacy, business development, and entrepreneurship trainings designed to help farmers expand their activities from subsistence-based production to profitable livelihoods.

Policy and Governance. Feed the Future works closely with the Government of Mali to address policy constraints to boosting food security and achieving long-term agricultural growth, with high priority on improving the efficiency of public and private spending on agricultural inputs as well as improving access to seed. Feed the Future is also working with the government to decrease road side corruption on important trade routes. Graft from fees levied at police and gendarme stops constitutes a big loss to farmers. Feed the Future, along with the government, is working to increase awareness on legitimate tariffs and reduce transportation time, which can decrease perishability and increase overall trade.

Partnerships. Feed the Future works through innovative partnerships with the private sector and international research institutes to leverage financial resources, knowledge and technology for Mali's development. Partnerships with institutions like the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, the World Agroforestry Centre, the World Vegetable Center, the International Fertilizer Development Center, and the World Bank are helping Malians access new seed varieties and agricultural techniques as well as business opportunities. Complementing the experience and technologies leveraged through partnering with these institutions, Feed the Future also partners with private sector actors to promote improved production, marketing and business development in millet, sorghum, rice, livestock and agroforestry.

Research. Feed the Future continues to invest in research designed to build targeted value chains and improve nutrition. These programs are developing new high-yielding, climate-adapted seed varieties; identifying better soil fertility management techniques; and providing business opportunities for Malian entrepreneurs. For example, Africa Rising's Farmer Seed Enterprises in Mali (FarmSEM) is strengthening seed enterprises in Feed the Future-targeted communes, contributing to the sustainable delivery of pearl millet and sorghum varieties to Malian farmers that provide farmers with more options for boosting their production. With access to improved varieties, farmers have achieved major yield gains. Feed the Future's investments in agricultural research in Mali support prosperous harvests in target regions and beyond.

Climate-Smart Development. To help smallholder farmers in Mali improve their adaptive capacity, Feed the Future is disseminating improved agricultural and soil fertility management practices, such as tree-based production systems and agroforestry, adapted varieties of trees and crops, and soil and water conservation practices. Feed the Future is also helping farmers increase their resilience to climate change through better soil and water management systems and through the promotion of intensive rice production technology. These activities improve the efficiency of water use and overcome production constraints related to soil erosion and insufficient rainfall, helping farmers reduce the variability of their yields. Across Feed the Future's target regions in Mali, access to drought-resistant seeds is complementing efforts to boost crop production and productivity during times of climate stress.

Scaling Innovation. To ensure that the benefits of development are enjoyed by as many Malians as possible, Feed the Future leverages innovative partnerships and cutting-edge diffusion strategies focused on low-cost, high-impact technologies, including improved seed, micro-dosing, fertilizer deep placement, seed pre-treatment, and a suite of soil and water conservation technologies. Diffusion strategies include:

- Farmer field schools and farmer field days
- Farmer-to-farmer exchanges
- Expansion of a network of smallholder private sector improved seed multipliers

Results

Results by the numbers

- Almost **86,000 farmers and other producers** applied new technologies and management practices for the first time last year with Feed the Future's help.
- Producers applied improved technologies and practices on more than **60,500 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 over the past year by **\$1.7 million**.

- Feed the Future helped farmers access more than **\$3 million** in agricultural and rural loans.
- U.S. Government programs reached more than **93,500 children** under 5 years old to improve their nutrition.

Key achievements in 2014

- Following the reinstatement of direct foreign assistance to Mali, Feed the Future has engaged in a rapid scaling up of activities, both new and existing. Over the past year, these activities drove a 5-fold increase in hectares under improved management and in the number of farmers adopting improved technologies.
- Feed the Future accelerated dissemination of high-yielding, drought-resistant millet and sorghum seed varieties. This activity combined improved seed with a promising seed pre-treatment technology that prevents insect and fungus damage to seeds and young seedlings and increases yields.
- Feed the Future worked with the World Vegetable Center (AVRDC) to develop 99 varieties of vegetable seeds, testing 21 varieties in the field and ultimately making 13 varieties available for transfer to farmers in Mali.

What you need to know about these results

These results reflect information from the U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Peace Corps, U.S. African Development Foundation and U.S. Department of the Treasury (through the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program) reported into Feed the Future's central monitoring system for FY2014. 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

The Government of Mali aims to increase cereal production and value of livestock sales as well as the resilience of vulnerable households in the country. Feed the Future's efforts contribute to these goals. In 2014, the U.S. Government reinstated direct foreign assistance to Mali.

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 Mali, 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 Mali:

- Africa RISING (ICRISAT) <http://africa-rising.net/>
- Alatona Producer Association Strengthening Technical Assistance
- Alatona Water Association Business Development Technical Assistance
- Agricultural Statistics Capacity Building LSMS (World Bank)
- Agroforestry Scaling (ICRISAT & ICRAF)
- Anti-Counterfeiting Capacity Building (US Department of Commerce)
<http://cldp.doc.gov/category/countries-and-regions/sub-saharan-africa/mali>
- Borlaug Higher Education for Agricultural Research and Development (MSU)
- Business Enabling Environment (World Bank)
- Cereals Value Chain Program (ACDI/VOCA)
<http://acdivoca.org/our-programs/project-profiles/mali-usaid-cereal-value-chain-cvc-project>
- CVC Impact Evaluation & FTF Baseline (IOS)
- Development Credit Authority (DCA) Loan Portfolio Financing for Small and Medium Enterprises
<http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/economic-growth-and-trade/development-credit-authority-putting-local-wealth-work>
- DCA Credit Financing Technical Assistance (TBD)
- Fertilizer Technology Scaling (IFDC) www.ifdc.org/mali/
- Food Security Policy Innovation Lab (MSU) fsg.afre.msu.edu/fsp/
- Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP)

- Horticulture Scaling (AVRDC) <http://avrdc.org/highlighting-horticulture-mali/>
- Livestock for Growth Value Chain (AECOM) www.mali4g.com/
- Sorghum and Millet Scaling Up (ICRISAT)
- Strengthening Partnerships, Results and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING)
- Mali Support to Youth Entrepreneurs Project, PAJE-Nièta (EDC)
<http://idd.edc.org/projects/mali-support-youth-entrepreneurs-project-paje-ni%C3%A8ta>
- USAID Food for Peace Program <http://www.usaid.gov/mali/food-assistance>

Target Regions

Funding