



Feed the Future Country Fact Sheet

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

COUNTRY PROFILE				
 <h2>Nepal</h2> <p>In Nepal, Feed the Future is targeting investments in specific regions for maximum impact. These statistics reflect the realities of Nepal and the results of Feed the Future's work there.</p>				
POPULATION	POVERTY	STUNTING	RURAL	GDP
6.8	32.5	45.2	82	5.5
Million	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Number of people who live in Feed the Future target regions	Percentage of population living below Nepal's total poverty line in Feed the Future target regions	Percentage of children under 5 suffering from stunting in Feed the Future target regions	Percentage of population living in rural Nepal (World Bank, 2014)	Annual GDP growth; agriculture accounts for 34.3% of added value (World Bank, 2014)
FARMERS	SALES	NUTRITION	HECTARES	INVESTMENT
146	\$3.8	576	68.5	\$706
Thousand	Million	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand
Producers using new technology and skills 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 Nepal	Hectares tended with improved technologies or management practices in FY14	New private investment leveraged by Feed the Future in FY14

Approach

More than 70 percent of Nepal's population works in agriculture, yet this South Asian country struggles to produce an adequate and affordable supply of food. Declining agricultural production has depressed rural economies and increased widespread hunger and urban migration. Two out of every three Nepalese suffer from food insecurity each year, and nearly half the population is undernourished.

The underlying causes of hunger, poverty and undernutrition in Nepal include low agricultural productivity; limited livelihood opportunities; weak market linkages; inadequate production and consumption of nutritious foods; poor infrastructure; and inadequate government resources. Gender and caste relationships play an important role in food security, as a majority of women and many disadvantaged persons work in agriculture; yet they often do not have access to property ownership or cash. Furthermore, women and children typically suffer greater levels of hunger and poverty than men. Nearly half of all children under 5 are chronically malnourished.

Despite these difficulties, there are many opportunities to substantially increase food security, reduce poverty and improve nutrition in Nepal. The Government of Nepal and donors have made food security a national priority and have increased support to developing agriculture.

Ecologically, Nepal has the potential to be a food surplus country and has an excellent track record in piloting groundbreaking development programs. Through multi-sector interventions that incorporate best practices, such as conservation agriculture and crop rotation, the potential is high for activities to stimulate agricultural production, increase incomes,

improve nutrition and lower food insecurity.

Strategy

Goal: Reduce prevalence of poverty in the areas where Feed the Future works by 28 percent.

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

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

- Enhance agricultural productivity
- Increase livelihood opportunities
- Facilitate access to markets
- Improve nutrition and hygiene
- Increase resilience of vulnerable communities and households through skills development

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

Value Chains

- Vegetables
- Cereals (Rice and Maize)
- Lentils
- Livestock

Target Regions

20 hill and Terai districts in three Feed the Future focus regions, plus Food for Peace focus areas in two additional regions:

- Far-Western Region (six districts)
- Mid-Western Region (ten districts)
- Western Region (four districts)
- Central Region (two districts)
- Eastern Region (four districts)

Earthquake-affected areas in two regions:

- Central Region (five districts)
- Eastern Region (one district)

Program Highlights

Earthquake Recovery and Resilience. In April 2015, a major earthquake of shallow depth measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale struck Nepal. The initial earthquake and subsequent aftershocks, including a 7.3 magnitude aftershock a month later, caused numerous casualties and extensive damage, particularly in rural communities in remote hill and mountain areas. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is implementing a multi-sectoral approach to help Nepal recover and build resilience. Feed the Future and USAID's Food for Peace program are expanding their geographic coverage to affected districts in the Central and Eastern Hill Regions and responding to recovery needs through agriculture, disaster risk reduction and livelihood activities, which complement existing Global Health Initiative and Global Climate Change Initiative projects in affected areas. These projects are working to improve nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene; restore poultry farms and vegetable gardens; and support the government and local communities in restoring livelihoods and biodiversity with resilient practices that conserve water and reduce landslide and flood risks.

Nutrition. A key characteristic of Feed the Future's strategy in Nepal is linking agriculture and nutrition. On the supply side, Feed the Future is helping Nepalis sell agricultural products that provide the income they need to purchase nutritious foods for their families as well as helping them grow nutritious foods to eat at home. Feed the Future also encourages the distribution and purchase of smallholder farmer-produced nutritious foods. On the demand side, Feed the Future is helping smallholder farming families gain greater access to nutritious foods and safely and nutritiously prepare and consume them. In collaboration with the Global Health Initiative, Feed the Future supports a community-based program in Nepal that incorporates nutrition; maternal, newborn and child health; family planning; water, sanitation and hygiene; home-based gardening; and behavior change communication.

Vulnerable Populations. Literacy, life skills and entrepreneurial training empower women, youth and ethnic minorities to take full advantage of agricultural and nutrition programs and fully integrate into market-led initiatives. Feed the Future is building the capacity of community leaders to deliver basic literacy and entrepreneurship education to disadvantaged youth, women and groups. Prior experience has shown that literacy, numeracy and life skills training have transformational impact, especially for poor rural women. These women are not only inspired but also empowered to make informed decisions about family finances and nutrition.

Climate-Smart Development. Feed the Future is closely coordinating with the Global Climate Change Initiative in Nepal to reduce threats to biodiversity and address climate change vulnerabilities. The Global Climate Change Initiative is focusing on improving the national policy environment and works in priority landscapes, including the Terai Arc Landscape and Chitwan-Annapurna Landscape, which partially overlap with Feed the Future target regions. Collaboration enables the U.S. Government to integrate tools such as conservation agriculture, use of weather data, and climate change models for better decision making on crop and variety selection, land use planning, and understanding of irrigation and water management.

Scaling Innovation. Feed the Future in Nepal is focusing on scaling proven technologies and practices to help smallholder farmers, including:

- Improved rice, maize and lentil seeds
- Irrigation and water management
- Integrated pest management for tomato, cucumber, eggplant, bitter melon and cauliflower value chains
- Improved post-harvest storage
- Market planning committees

Results

Results by the numbers*

- More than **146,000 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 management practices on **68,500 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 last year by more than **\$3.89 million**.
- Feed the Future leveraged **\$706,800** in new private investment in food and agriculture in Nepal.
- U.S. Government programs reached **576,400 children** under 5 years old to improve their nutrition.

Key achievements in 2014

- Feed the Future established mutually beneficial agreements between five seed companies and seed cooperatives and smallholder farmers. Feed the Future also expanded these farmers' and cooperatives' access to credit and financial services in rural areas, linking them to 46 savings and credit cooperatives, 11 microfinance institutions, and 5 financial institutions.
- The Government of Nepal modeled a new community-based seed production program on a Feed the Future project's approach. This Government of Nepal program covers all 40 hill districts across the country, helping farmers in these areas produce and market higher-quality open pollinated varieties of maize seed.
- Thanks to the Global Health Initiative's work in 20 districts in Nepal, 64 percent of children under 6 months of age received exclusive breastfeeding--a nutrition best practice--and 54 percent of children ages 6-23 months received a minimum acceptable diet, which is helping children in these areas receive the nutrition they need early in life to thrive for a lifetime. The program has since expanded to an additional 20 districts in Feed the Future target regions.
- Feed the Future helped solidify sustainable, private sector-oriented service delivery mechanisms that fill a major gap in remote areas of Nepal. For example, market planning committees are helping farmers aggregate their harvests for better market opportunities and prices, and local service providers are offering products, advice and technical services to farmers.

*What you need to know about these results

These results reflect information from USAID, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Peace Corps 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 FY2014. For more information on the indicators above, please view our [FY14 Feed the Future progress report](#). All dollar amounts are in U.S. dollars.

Opportunities

Over the past five years, the Government of Nepal has increased annual state investment in agriculture. In August 2015, the Cabinet approved a 20-year Agricultural Development Strategy, which identifies the private sector as an important engine for agriculture growth. A seed summit organized by the Ministry of Agricultural Development also outlined the importance of private sector engagement in boosting the country's seed production and marketing system.

Addressing undernutrition is a major priority for the Government of Nepal. Nepal has been a member of the Scaling Up Nutrition movement since 2012, and its Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan aims to reduce the prevalence of child stunting and underweight women by one-third. The government plans to accomplish this goal through combining nutrition-sensitive interventions across various sectors, including health, education, agriculture, water and sanitation. The Nepal Health Sector Program includes a Nutrition and Food Security Coordination Committee that engages donors, implementing partners, the private sector and civil society groups in nutrition planning and advocacy processes. The government encourages civil society organizations and private sector actors (such as retailers and wholesalers) to carry out nutrition-related activities that contribute to achieving national objectives, for example, salt iodization and water and sanitation activities.

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 Nepal, 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 Nepal.

- Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia (CSISA)
- Enabling Agricultural Trade
- [Feed the Future Asia Innovative Farmers](#)
- Feed the Future Business Literacy Project
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Adapting Livestock Systems to Climate Change
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Aquaculture and Fisheries
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Horticulture
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Integrated Pest Management
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Nutrition
- Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Management
- Feed the Future Policy Reform Initiative
- Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III (FANTA)
- Food for Peace Promoting Agriculture, Health and Alternative Livelihood (PAHAL)
- Food for Peace Sustainable Action for Resilience and Food Security (SABAL)
- Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP)
- Global Health and Food Security in Nepal (Peace Corps)
- Knowledge-Based Integrated Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition Project (KISAN)
- Suaahara Integrated Nutrition Program
- USDA McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program

Target Regions

Funding

