



Feed the Future Country Fact Sheet

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

COUNTRY PROFILE



Rwanda

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

POPULATION	POVERTY	STUNTING	RURAL	GDP
9.3 Million Number of people living in Feed the Future target regions	63 Percent Percentage of people living in poverty in Rwanda (World Bank, 2011)	44.3 Percent Percentage of children under 5 suffering from stunting in Rwanda (World Bank, 2010)	73 Percent Percentage of population living in rural Rwanda (World Bank, 2013)	8.2 Percent Annual GDP growth; agriculture accounts for 33.4% of added value (World Bank, 2013)
FARMERS	SALES	NUTRITION	LAND	INVESTMENT
60.6 Thousand Farmers & others applying improved technologies and management practices with Feed the Future's help in FY14	\$24 Million New sales of agricultural products as result of Feed the Future assistance in FY14	308 Thousand Children under 5 reached with nutrition help in FY14 across Rwanda	3.18 Thousand Hectares tended with improved technologies or management practices in FY14	\$28 Million New private investment leveraged by Feed the Future in FY14

Approach

Rwanda has made remarkable progress since the tragedy of the 1994 genocide, enjoying strong economic growth rates, creating new business opportunities, and lifting people out of poverty. The country has seen average annual growth in incomes of nearly 6 percent since 2007.

Yet Rwanda—a small, landlocked country with the highest population density in Sub-Saharan Africa—remains one of the world's poorest countries. About 63 percent of the population lives on less than \$1.25 per day, with almost 40 percent living in extreme poverty on less than 90 cents per day.

Agriculture is the foundation of the Rwandan economy and employs 70 percent of the labor force. However, agricultural productivity remains low. The vast majority of farmers practice subsistence farming on small, hilly plots. Due to erosion and poor soil fertility practices, up to half of the country's land is severely degraded. The use of improved seeds, pesticides and fertilizers is limited.

In part due to low agricultural productivity, nearly a third of the Rwandan population experience food insecurity. Undernutrition persists among young children in rural areas, with **44 percent** of children under 5 suffering from stunting.

To address food insecurity and malnutrition in Rwanda, Feed the Future is contributing to increasing productivity of maize, beans, dairy, and pyrethrum and promoting good nutrition practices.

Strategy

Goal: Reduce prevalence of poverty in Feed the Future target regions by 20 percent.

Goal: Reduce prevalence of stunting in children under 5 in Feed the Future target regions by 20 percent.

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

- Transform systems by improving agricultural productivity, markets, infrastructure and nutrition
- Promote private sector investment in the agriculture sector
- Strengthen the policy-making capacity of the Government of Rwanda

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

Value Chains

- Beans
- Maize
- Dairy
- Pyrethrum
- Other nutrient-rich food crops

Target Regions

- Feed the Future works in rural areas across Rwanda except for three districts in Kigali.

Program Highlights

Value Chain Approach. Feed the Future in Rwanda focuses interventions in the beans, maize and dairy value chains for maximum, sustained impact. The initiative also is making limited investments in pyrethrum, which is a high-value export for Rwanda. Climate change models suggest bean and maize production in Rwanda will likely rise significantly by 2050, in contrast to its regional neighbors. These crops are complementary as they are often rotated and require similar drying and storage infrastructure. The competitiveness of Rwanda's dairy industry within the region is also growing. As the dairy sector matures, milk volume is increasing, overall quality is improving and a more diverse range of commercial dairy products is available in the market. Feed the Future is helping Rwanda build on this progress so the industry can better respond to latent demand in the country and the region. A key aspect of this support has been helping the Rwandan government enforce its regulatory framework to maintain health and quality standards for milk entering the market.

Markets and Trade. To sustain progress for years to come, Feed the Future is encouraging private sector growth and competitiveness in Rwanda's agriculture sector. As a result of Feed the Future's support to the Government of Rwanda's plan to gradually privatize the fertilizer market, the private sector is now playing an increased role in importing fertilizers and facilitating farmers' access to these inputs. Feed the Future is also strengthening farmer cooperatives' management and operational capacity to increase their competitiveness. In doing so, the initiative is facilitating farmers' access to and adoption of improved technologies to increase productivity and enhance post-harvest practices so gains in agricultural productivity don't go to waste. To improve access to financial services in the agriculture sector, Feed the Future is helping expand financial services to the poor, women and microenterprises; these services are complemented by loan guarantees with local financial institutions to encourage lending. Feed the Future is supporting the Government of Rwanda's efforts to increase its export revenue by linking producers of export crops such as vegetables to regional buyers. The initiative also supports Rwanda's progress on regional trade integration through the rollout of the electronic single window to reduce time to clear goods at borders, and other trade facilitation efforts to reduce costs of cross border trades.

Infrastructure. Inadequate rural feeder roads have cost Rwanda millions of dollars. Feed the Future is helping rehabilitate these roads in target districts using local firms and labor wherever possible. This helps build local capacity for road construction and maintenance thereby increasing the sustainability of these investments for future generations. Feed the Future is also helping Rwanda improve the productivity and commercialization of hillside agriculture by developing small-scale irrigation networks, introducing sustainable soil and water management practices to safeguard and stabilize steep slopes under cultivation. This work is central to the country's climate change adaptation plans.

Nutrition. Since 2013 the Government of Rwanda has rolled out a series of ambitious strategies and plans specifically targeting efforts to reduce stunting while sustaining the progress Rwanda has made in addressing underweight children. Feed the Future's investments in reducing post-harvest loss, reaching women, and improving access to finance also help maximize nutrition improvements. The U.S. Government is helping Rwanda strengthen and scale up community-based

nutrition programs to prevent undernutrition in young children and in pregnant and lactating women. Feed the Future is promoting the production and consumption of nutrient-rich food crops such as iron-fortified beans and vegetables to eliminate micronutrient deficiencies, build the capacity of the government to implement its multi-sector plans, and inform behavior change communication strategies.

Policy. As a small, landlocked country, Rwanda's economic development and the stability that underpins it are greatly dependent on its neighborhood. The Government of Rwanda has been a strong advocate of deeper integration within the East African Community, playing a leadership role in advancing regional initiatives. Given the Government of Rwanda's commitment to regional integration as a core element of its national development strategy, an important component of the Feed the Future strategy is advocacy for greater attention to those regional issues that have the greatest impact on food security locally, including transit efficiency, food safety and quality standards, market information, and research.

Gender. Although Rwanda is justifiably recognized for the strong leadership role played by its women and its sound legal framework for protecting the principles of gender equality, significant gender disparities remain, particularly at the household level. To ensure that programs are sensitive to the underlying conditions that result in these disparities, Rwanda completed a gender strategy for the agriculture sector. While some Feed the Future investments target women specifically, all reflect the findings and recommendations of this gender strategy in their design.

Scaling Innovations. Feed the Future in Rwanda is scaling the adoption and use of technologies and practices that benefit smallholder farmers and improve nutrition including:

- The production of iron-fortified beans
- The production of orange-fleshed sweet potato

Results

Results by the numbers

- More than **60,500 farmers and other producers** applied new technologies and management practices on their farms last year with Feed the Future's help.
- Producers applied improved technologies and management practices on more than **3,100 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 nearly **\$24 million**.
- Feed the Future leveraged more than **\$28.3 million** in new private investment in food and agriculture.
- U.S. Government programs reached more than **307,900 children** under 5 years old to improve their nutrition.

Key achievements in 2014

- Feed the Future helped 16,292 maize farming households adopt and apply improved technologies such as high-yielding seeds, irrigation, fertilizer and post-harvest handling techniques on more than 1,000 hectares of land. As a result, maize yields among these farmers continued to increase in 2014—by 22 percent since 2013 and 114.2 percent since 2012.
- The U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID's) policy support helped facilitate privatization of the procurement and distribution of fertilizers in Rwanda. Policy reform helped upgrade fertilizer distribution significantly, making more fertilizer available to farmers. In 2014, fertilizer sales were up, 418 more agro-dealers than the year before received loans, and agro-dealers and importers invested an estimated \$26.5 million in fertilizers for sale in local markets.
- Starting in 2013, Feed the Future (through USAID) worked closely with Rwanda's Ministry of Agriculture to produce the National Dairy Strategy, which has become the guiding document for dairy development in Rwanda. The Rwandan government set an ambitious target of doubling milk consumption by 2018. In 2014, Feed the Future supported this effort by helping 11,241 farmers adopt new technologies to increase the quantity and quality of the milk their cows produced. These farmers subsequently increased their average gross margins per cow to \$186 hundred, an 18 percent increase compared to the year before.
- Feed the Future helped train 215,216 mothers, caregivers and community health workers in how to improve infant and child feeding practices
- Feed the Future helped 2,740 smallholder farmers and small- and medium-sized enterprises secure \$737,862 in loans from local banks.

What you need to know about these results

These results reflect information from USAID, Peace Corps, the U.S. African Development Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Treasury (through the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program) reported into Feed the Future's central monitoring system for fiscal year 2014 (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

Rwanda's sound policy environment, solid growth record and macroeconomic stability provide a strong foundation for Feed the Future implementation. Rwanda has committed itself to generating sustained agricultural growth, including increasing the share of the national budget allocated to agriculture from 3 percent in 2006 to 10.7 percent in 2013.

Rwanda's investments appear to be paying off. Since 2007, annual agriculture growth has averaged over 5 percent. Rwanda has demonstrated the same level of commitment to tackling undernutrition, launching its Emergency Plan to Fight Malnutrition and a national strategy addressing pre and postnatal care to reduce all forms of malnutrition.

Rwanda has also received a \$50 million from the [Global Agriculture and Food Security Program](#) to increase productivity and commercialization of hillside agriculture through research and extension, water and land management, stronger agricultural value chains, and expanded access to finance.

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 Rwanda, 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 Rwanda.

- Africa Lead
- Borlaug Higher Education for Agricultural Research Development (BHEARD)
- Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNet)
- [Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Horticulture](#)
- [Global Agriculture and Food Security Program](#)
- HarvestPlus Iron-fortified Beans Activity
- Human and Institutional Capacity Development Project
- Integrated Improved Livelihood Program
- Land Husbandry, Hillside Irrigation and Water Harvesting Program
- Land Project
- Marketplace for Nutritious Food Activity
- [Peace Corps](#) Volunteers
- Private Sector-Driven Agricultural Growth
- Privatization of Rwanda's Fertilizer Import and Distribution Systems Rwanda Dairy Competitiveness Project II
- Rwanda Pyrethrum Program
- Rwanda Rural Feeder Roads Improvement Program
- Trade Infrastructure Program
- [U.S. African Development Foundation](#)
- USAID [Development Credit Authority](#)
- USDA-NASS Support to the Government of Rwanda
- Women Leadership Program

Target Regions

Funding

