

## FEED THE FUTURE IN ETHIOPIA

With a population of nearly 90 million people, Ethiopia is one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa. Ethiopia's economy is dependent on agriculture, which accounts for 45 percent of gross domestic product and 90 percent of exports.

However, challenges persist: Smallholder crop yields are below regional averages and market linkages are weak. The use of improved seeds, fertilizers and pesticides remains limited and only six percent of cultivated land is currently under irrigation. Undernutrition hampers both human and economic development. Though in decline, child undernutrition rates in Ethiopia are among the highest in the world and undernutrition contributes to 53 percent of infant and child deaths.

Despite these challenges, agriculture-led economic growth, accompanied by improvements in people's livelihoods and nutrition, can provide a long-lasting solution to Ethiopia's chronic poverty and food insecurity. To achieve this, Feed the Future is helping vulnerable households in Ethiopia increase their agricultural productivity, participate in economic activities, and generate demand for products.

### Strategy

**Topline Goals:** Reduce prevalence of poverty in Feed the Future zones of influence by 30 percent. Reduce prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years old in these same areas by 20 percent.

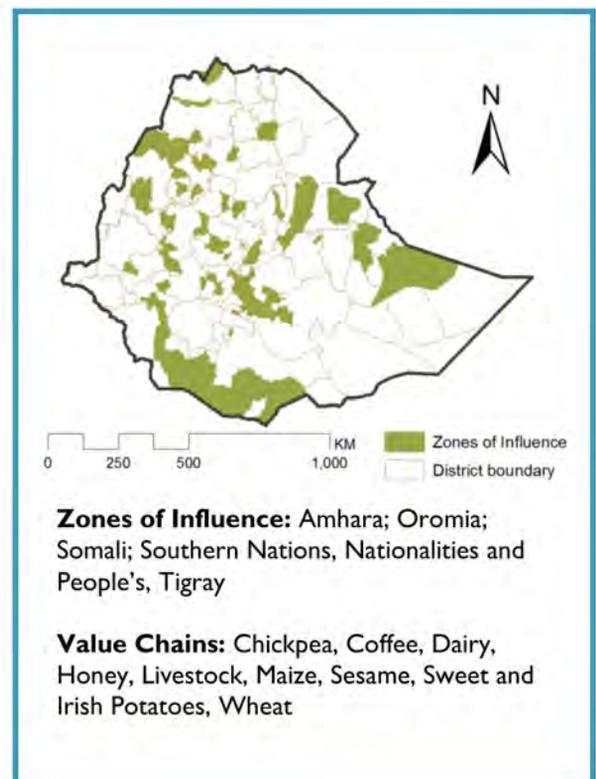
Feed the Future is making key investments to:

- Improve productivity and commercialization
- Improve nutrition status of women and young children
- Improve resilience to and protection from shocks and disasters with increased livelihood opportunities
- Strengthen the enabling environment to support increased investment and broad-based agricultural growth

### Opportunity

Through Feed the Future, the United States is supporting Ethiopia's own priorities for agriculture-based economic growth by strengthening strategic crops, agricultural commodities and livestock value chains, promoting private sector engagement, increasing access to credit, targeting relevant research and development efforts for inputs such as seeds and fertilizers, and improving market access.

Ethiopia was one of the first member countries of the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, under which the Government of Ethiopia and donors have endorsed a country-specific Cooperation Framework. The Ethiopian Government has committed to specific policy actions to improve the environment for private investment in agriculture. At the same time, donors have pledged to align funding behind the country's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture



Development Program Investment Plan, and private companies have signed letters of intent for specific investments in Ethiopia's agriculture sector.

## Results

The following are a result of Feed the Future's work in Ethiopia in FY2014.

- More than 217,600 farmers and other producers applied new technologies and practices for the first time with Feed the Future's help.
- Producers applied improved technologies and management practices on more than 90,800 hectares of land with Feed the Future's help.
- Feed the Future-supported farmers and producers increased the value of their agricultural product sales by more than \$45.6 million.
- Feed the Future leveraged more than \$27.49 million in new private investment in food and agriculture in Ethiopia.
- U.S. Government programs reached more than 1.3 million children under 5 across Ethiopia to improve their nutrition.

Key Achievements:

- Ethiopia, supported by Feed the Future and private sector partners, introduced the first locally-fortified wheat flour in the country.
- Feed the Future helped Ethiopia establish its first blended fertilizer production facility and the first camel milk processing center, with demand for additional centers.
- USAID's Food for Peace environmental rehabilitation activities restored more than 20,000 hectares of land, which will improve households' resilience to the effects and pressure of climate change.
- Ethiopia experienced a 40 percent increase in the value of livestock in pastoralist dryland areas targeted by Feed the Future livestock value chain programs.
- Feed the Future partners helped facilitate more than \$10 million in private sector investment into pastoralist dryland areas targeted by livestock value chain and other Feed the Future-supported programs.

## Program Highlights

**Vulnerable Populations.** Feed the Future works to increase sustainable livelihoods among chronically food-insecure households in targeted districts in Ethiopia and to develop economic links between food-insecure regions and more productive regions. For example, Feed the Future supports Ethiopia's lowland pastoralists in selling livestock to processors in the highlands and export markets in Gulf States. Through these efforts, Feed the Future is empowering communities to manage agriculture and livestock activities even during periods of drought. Feed the Future is also supporting the Government of Ethiopia's national Agricultural Growth Program to address root causes of widespread, low agricultural productivity. Through close coordination among the donor community and the Government of Ethiopia, this support is accomplished, in part, by using public works to rehabilitate degraded watersheds and social infrastructure, improve rural roads, and restore essential vegetation. Complementing Feed the Future's longer-term development efforts, U.S. emergency food

## From Results to Impact

Successes realized by individual farmers and communities reached by Feed the Future and other U.S. Government-led efforts, in partnership with the Ethiopian government and other development partners, are contributing to impacts in stunting. Between 2011 and 2014, there was a **9 percent reduction** in childhood stunting nationally in Ethiopia.

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assistance provides relief to save lives and reduce human suffering among the most vulnerable populations.

**Nutrition.** In 2008, the Government of Ethiopia instituted a National Nutrition Program to respond to Ethiopia's high rates of undernutrition, and expanded and strengthened the program in 2013. Under Feed the Future and other U.S. Government efforts, the U.S. Government is building on its prior nutrition investments to maximize impact on the nutritional status of Ethiopian households, particularly children, and is integrating nutrition objectives throughout agriculture and livelihood activities. These activities support Ethiopia's nutrition program by developing capacity at the policy and implementation levels, improving education and training, supporting large-scale behavior change communication, and integrating nutrition objectives into public-private partnerships.

**Gender Integration.** Empowering rural women as food producers and managers of household nutrition is critical for inclusive economic growth in Ethiopia. Feed the Future activities in Ethiopia are promoting equitable decision-making in managing household resources, providing training in reading and math, and engaging women's advocacy groups in policy reform to ensure that the constraints experienced by women farmers are considered and addressed. Feed the Future-supported land certification activities are also leading to improved productivity and increased benefits for women.

**Partnerships.** Feed the Future has formed valuable public and private partnerships across sectors to promote agricultural development in Ethiopia. The U.S. Government has partnered with the United Nations World Food Program, local partners including Guts Agro Industry, and smallholder farmers to increase chickpea production in Ethiopia and develop a chickpea-based ready-to-use supplemental food to address moderate acute malnutrition in the country. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Government of Ethiopia, in support of the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, have partnered with DuPont Pioneer to provide improved varieties of maize seed and technical assistance to 32,000 Ethiopian smallholder farmers. Feed the Future has also partnered with the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas and the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research to test and release new rust-resistant varieties of wheat. Feed the Future's work complements Global Agriculture and Food Security Program and bilateral donor investments that also support the Government of Ethiopia's food security programs.

**Resilience.** Climate and non-climate stressors contribute to the vulnerability of people, places and livelihood activities in Ethiopia and hinder progress. Adaptation is a high priority for the Government of Ethiopia and the donor community working in Ethiopia, including Feed the Future. Working in concert with USAID programs in the country, Feed the Future is helping Ethiopians increase their resilience through climate smart natural resource management, the building and restoring of community assets, and a combination of activities that provide families with sustainable and reliable sources of income and assets. Feed the Future is helping farmers and pastoralists improve their crop and livestock productivity and marketing while also helping those who struggle to make a living explore new economic opportunities through vocational training and access to innovative financial services. Activities support and include drought preparedness and response, nutrition, access to water and institutional capacity development.

Ongoing integration of humanitarian and development activities in Ethiopia is helping local communities gradually acquire the knowledge and skills they need to enhance and safeguard their livelihoods against potential risks in the future and become increasingly resilient. In 2011, the Horn of Africa endured one of the worst droughts in 60 years. Ethiopia was just one of many countries in the region affected, but due to a rapid response, including repositioning of food, and programs by humanitarian agencies, donors and the government, such as the multi-donor Productive Safety Net Program, the impact in Ethiopia was less severe than in past droughts.

**Regional Integration.** Feed the Future and broader U.S. Government activities in Ethiopia aim to improve the standards, quality and efficiency of the livestock trade within the Horn of Africa and Gulf States. These activities are helping improve joint marketing and lobbying of Horn of Africa states, veterinary services, and access to regional markets; they are also helping countries harmonize regional and national livestock policies. Support for uniform regional application of disease surveillance and control programs, with a focus on animal health issues, will help stimulate

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additional investments in regional value chains, from farm to market. Ethiopians participating across the value chain, from pastoralists and other livestock producers to market operators, transporters, feedlots, abattoirs, meat processors, retailers and consumers, will profit from the availability, sale, processing and consumption of healthy animals. USAID is collaborating with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to continue to improve Ethiopia's sanitary and phytosanitary standards so the country can better participate in regional markets. Feed the Future is working in conjunction with the Government of Ethiopia to develop and launch traceability platforms, which will enable Ethiopians to participate more broadly in international markets. These efforts will help build consumer confidence and meet world standards for traceability in crops such as coffee and sesame. Feed the Future is piloting an Ethiopian Livestock Identification and Traceability System to assess its feasibility, cost effectiveness and viability.

**Scaling Innovation.** Feed the Future is scaling the following technologies and practices to achieve greater impact overall on reducing poverty and undernutrition in Ethiopia:

- High-yielding chickpeas, maize and rust-resistant wheat
- Commercial farm service centers
- Improved financial services
- Artificial insemination
- Milk cooling and storage
- Orange-fleshed sweet potato
- Dairy consumption