



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

# Turning *Potential into* Progress

2019



Feed the Future  
Progress Snapshot



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# Message from the Global Coordinator

Agriculture has the transformative power and potential to uplift millions of people out of poverty.

**F**eed the Future, the U.S. initiative to combat global hunger, poverty and malnutrition, mobilizes the best of American ingenuity to catalyze agriculture-led economic growth and advance self-reliance in our partner countries.

Investments in agriculture have proven to be extremely effective at lifting millions of people out of poverty; reducing human suffering; and building more stable, resilient societies.

Women are key to this transformation. When women are economically empowered, they reinvest in their families and communities and create a multiplier effect that promotes global benefits and stability. Feed the Future breaks down barriers that hold women back from participating fully in society to unleash their full economic potential.

Women whose stories we feature in this snapshot, like Affiong Williams,

show how Feed the Future unlocks the entrepreneurial spirit that is at the heart of every woman entrepreneur.

Our investments in women are essential to promoting self-reliance, prosperity and resilience in the countries in which we work. The numbers behind this initiative speak for themselves, and are a testament to the power of partnership.

Since the initiative began, an estimated 23.4 million more people are living above the poverty line, 3.4 million more children are living free from stunting, and 5.2 million more families are living free from hunger in places where Feed the Future, and our multitude of partners, have targeted efforts.

Investing in long-term global food security is good for U.S. prosperity and security, too. Feed the Future's work helps to open up new markets for U.S. businesses, improve the policy environment for responsible

private investment, and create demand for U.S. innovations and expertise. When we strengthen global food systems with smart investments, we stabilize countries and make the world a safer place.

As the world becomes increasingly dynamic, our mission will be to accelerate and protect the gains we have made in reducing global hunger, poverty and malnutrition. This is a vision I am proud to support.

With women in the lead to end hunger, I am confident we can build a brighter, more prosperous future for all.

**MARK GREEN**  
USAID Administrator

Of the company's 40 employees, two-thirds are women, as is the entire management team.

“I think that's part of our secret sauce,” says Affiong.





# Affiong Williams



If you ask Affiong Williams the secret to her business, she's quick to credit the women around her. Affiong is an entrepreneur and the head of ReelFruit, one of Nigeria's leading dried-fruit and nut companies. Of the company's 40 employees, two-thirds are women, as is the entire management team. "I think that's part of our secret sauce," says Affiong.

After graduating from university abroad, she returned home to Nigeria with a purpose: to create jobs and fuel economic growth by tapping into her country's agricultural potential.

But around the world, many women like Affiong face barriers to full participation in the global

economy. Feed the Future helps break down these barriers and unleash women's economic potential—particularly critical in developing countries, where opportunities are limited.

In 2018, Affiong's company was one of two women-owned businesses awarded the Feed the Future Accelerating Women Entrepreneurs Prize. Today, Feed the Future provides Affiong with financial tools to grow her business further.

With Affiong's determination and skilled employees, the company has thrived. ReelFruit products can be found in local markets and regional airlines, as well as on the sites of online retailers like

Amazon. The agribusiness sources mangoes, pineapples, nuts and more from smallholders in Nigeria, which provides them with a reliable market for their produce and a sustainable income.

In 2018 alone, Feed the Future helped more than 175,000 women and their businesses, like ReelFruit, gain access to financing and support, including by unlocking over \$30 million in loans for them.

With access to investment tools, Affiong is looking to the future and dreams of taking her company global. She is excited about expanding into additional markets that will create even more jobs and opportunities for smallholders, both in and out of Nigeria.



# Feed the Future Overview

**E**nding global hunger represents one of the greatest challenges—and opportunities—of our time. Hunger holds entire countries back from a secure future, and breeds resentment and instability. Feed the Future brings partners together to help developing countries transform their food systems to boost growth and opportunity and replace hunger with hope. We place a special focus on reaching some of the world's poorest and hungriest people, including women, who are at the center of this transformation.

When families have the tools they need to lift themselves out of poverty and hunger, **everybody benefits.**

Families can buy nutritious foods, send their children to school, get the medical care they need, and save for the future—all of which

builds more resilient communities and countries that can lead their own development.

Investing in long-term food security abroad has benefits in the United States as well. Reductions in poverty and hunger abroad mean more opportunities for trade and investment, and contribute to a stable, more secure world.

By helping countries improve their policy and business environments, we make investing abroad a better bet for U.S. companies, including by promoting U.S. standards. Our work with universities and the global research community helps protect the U.S. agriculture and food industry from pests and threats that can originate anywhere.

Feed the Future brings American ingenuity and innovation to bear to tackle one of the greatest challenges of our time. Together with our partners, including U.S. universities, civil society organizations, U.S. Government departments and agencies, and the private sector, we are delivering results to end hunger.

## Agriculture-Led Growth

Feed the Future helps countries boost agriculture-led growth, which is one of the most effective tools countries have to lift people out of hunger and poverty. In addition to boosting productivity, we help countries strengthen markets, encourage investment, develop sound policies, and get research and technology into the hands of farmers.

## Nutrition


Good nutrition is essential to the well-being of entire nations and ensures the next generation can reach its full potential and thrive in the economies of the future. Feed the Future empowers people to improve their families' diets and nutrition, especially early in life when good nutrition has an immense, and long-lasting, impact.

## Resilience

Resilience goes beyond helping families prepare for and manage adversity in the face of stressful events; it also means that people have the ability to avoid falling back into poverty and hunger and can continue to make progress in their development journeys. Feed the Future strengthens resilience at every level, with a particular focus on vulnerable communities in countries where our investments can reduce costly, recurrent humanitarian emergencies and assistance.







Feed the Future was born out of the belief that, through dedicated effort, we can end global hunger.

Today, in areas where Feed the Future works:

**23.4 million**

more people live above the poverty line

**3.4 million**

more children live free from stunting

**5.2 million**

more families no longer suffer from hunger

Note: These figures represent estimated impact from 2010 – 2017 in Feed the Future's target regions.

# Why Women?

Women's economic success has a ripple effect in communities, which leads to more inclusive economic growth, better nutrition and health, and stronger resilience and stability. From rural villages to rapidly growing cities, women are key to ending hunger.

## Potential



- Women make up nearly half of the agricultural labor force in developing countries.
- Women lead one-third of small- and medium-sized enterprises in emerging markets.
- With the right tools, women could increase their harvests by up to 30 percent, enough to feed 150 million more people globally.

## Challenge



- Women own less land, are disproportionately responsible for household care in addition to working, and have more trouble gaining access to extension and farm services compared to men.
- Female entrepreneurs struggle to gain access to critical resources—like information, financing, and mentorship—which stifles their business growth and potential to contribute to the global economy.
- Women face legal, social and cultural barriers that limit their decision-making and leadership opportunities in their communities.

## Solution



- Help women tap into training and innovations that boost farm productivity and income.
- Help women take on leadership roles by working through community-based organizations, changing laws and norms, and engaging men in empowerment efforts.
- Help women gain the skills, resources and financing they need to succeed in business and grow their companies.
- Feed the Future is committed to helping women unleash their potential to be a driving force in transforming their communities and countries to end hunger.



## Accelerating Women Entrepreneurs

More than 40 percent of surveyed women business leaders in Africa cite lack of access to finance as a major barrier to growth. Although they have a vision, many women entrepreneurs have a difficult time finding investors. The Feed the Future Accelerating Women Entrepreneurs Award helps women in Africa gain greater access to finance and other business resources. In 2018, Feed the Future awarded the prize to two entrepreneurs from Ghana and Nigeria.



# From Potential to Progress



2.6 million

more women gained access to credit\*

The women of Kamushoko Cooperative in Uganda are ending food insecurity together in their community.

Before they banded together, the women lacked bargaining power, marketing outlets and storage space, and their profits were subsequently dismal. A grant from the U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF), as part of Feed the Future, helped them start a cooperative to change this. Within two years, they doubled their sales and increased membership to 150 women. A second grant from USADF helped them scale further and triple their revenue in three years. Today, they are powerful community leaders, and are using a portion of their profits to create a community health center and school.

\*As a direct result of Feed the Future's work globally from 2011–2018.

\*\*Estimated impact across target regions in Feed the Future's focus countries from 2011–2017.

\*\*\*Across target regions in Feed the Future's focus countries from 2012–2015. Source: Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index.



8.2 million

more women are living in households that are not hungry since Feed the Future began\*\*

Tara Bhurtel is a woman on a mission to transform agriculture and nutrition in her community in Nepal.

As part of Feed the Future, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) taught Tara how to grow home gardens and raise poultry to improve nutrition. As a model farmer, she shared this know-how with others in her village and helped them secure resources and microloans. She then opened a store to sell farming equipment and seeds to local farmers. She aims to reach more farmers in surrounding villages by connecting them to these tools and resources as well. "I want to motivate community members by demonstrating what I have learned and provide door-to-door technical support to the community so that they can become self-sufficient too," Tara says.

“We are an example in the community that agriculture can be a business.”

*Joan Mukongo, leader of the Kamushoko Cooperative*



*Over \$630 million*

in loans unlocked for women and their businesses since 2011\*



Meskerem Solomon knows milk.

Her farm, Azu Dairy, produces about 250 liters of it every day—and processes some into cheese and sells the rest in her store in the Oromia region of Ethiopia.

With Feed the Future’s help through USAID to secure a loan, she increased her own farm’s capacity and collects milk from 100 neighboring farmers, providing a vital source of income for producers who do not have market access. As a result, Meskerem can help supply restaurants and grocery stores throughout the region with local cheese and milk. She is one of 275 women entrepreneurs scaling up their businesses through this program in Ethiopia.



*3.3 million*

more women had reasonable workloads\*\*\*



A farming family might need two weeks to thresh just one acre of harvested soybean by hand. The burden of this work falls disproportionately on women—and children often skip school to help get the job done.

The Feed the Future Soybean Innovation Lab gives smallholder farmers a better alternative by training more than 80 blacksmiths to produce and repair multi-crop threshers in Malawi, Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania and Burundi. These low-cost machines cut down on the time that women spend working and keep children in school. The Soybean Lab is expanding this program to six more countries in Africa, which will make life easier for millions of farmers.



*3.7 million*

more women had input into farming decisions\*\*\*



About 75 percent of Kenyans make their living in agriculture, but inadequate supply chains restrict farmers’ profits and cause food waste—1.9 million tons in 2017 alone.

As part of Feed the Future, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation works with Twiga Foods, a Nairobi-based company that connects farmers—many of whom are women—to formal markets through a single, efficient platform. Unleashing the enormous potential of Kenya’s female farmers, the partnership increases the supply of food in the marketplace and reduces food loss by connecting remote producers to vendors and consumers.



When women thrive, entire communities and countries thrive.



These stories of women we work with inspire us. We support women as leaders, influencers, groundbreakers, entrepreneurs and innovators.

I am a  
*leader*



“It matters that these female employees get the opportunity not just to work but also to lead. There is something about the independence and agency you have when you earn your own income.”

**AFFIONG WILLIAMS**  
Founder and CEO of ReelFruit in Nigeria

I am an  
*influencer*



“Many women do not receive the information they need during pregnancy. I teach those mothers who don’t understand. My wish is that my daughter becomes a nurse. She can serve the community and she can also teach others what I taught her.”

**BIMALA CHAUDHARY**  
Mom and Nutrition Champion in Nepal

## I am a *groundbreaker*



“I [bring] women together. I give them skills...I empower them so they always earn something. That is my job.”

**RITA DAMPSON**  
Ghanaian Entrepreneur

## I am an *entrepreneur*



“I want to change the negative attitude towards girls and demonstrate the fact that they are powerful, because I am a living example. Our time is now, and the place to be is in the agriculture sector.”

**FATUMA NAMATOSI**  
Founder and Managing Director of Byeffe Foods Company Limited in Uganda

## I am an *innovator*



“Growing up in India, I witnessed firsthand how hunger and poverty can devastate communities. I want to be a force for positive change and translate my research skills in wheat breeding into real-world impact to help end hunger.”

**PHILOMIN JULIANA**  
Scientist at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center-CIMMYT




# Delivering Results

Accountability for results is a hallmark of the Feed the Future approach. All of our U.S. Government partners report program results that contribute to achievement of the *U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy*. We have updated our system for monitoring, evaluation and learning to more efficiently track results and continuously learn from and improve our efforts. While we track how many people we reached, we also measure the impact of our work in the communities and areas where we target efforts.

## What's changing:

- New and updated performance indicators (see chart on page 14)
- Collecting baseline data for Feed the Future's target countries
- Incorporating national-level data and analysis
- Increasing emphasis on building national data systems



Accountability for results is a hallmark of the Feed the Future approach.





# Our Global Annual Results



INDICATOR	FY18 RESULT
Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with U.S. Government (USG) assistance (a)	9,797,567
# of which are producers	9,607,746
<b>% Female</b>	<b>31%</b>
% Male	41%
% Disaggregates Not Available (DNA)	28%
Number of hectares under improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance (b)	
# of which are intensively-managed hectares (b)	8,440,001
# of which are cropland or cultivated pasture (c)	8,439,960
# of which are extensively-managed hectares (ex. rangeland, conservation/protected area, freshwater or marine ecosystems) (d)	2,235
Number of individuals who have received USG-supported degree-granting non-nutrition-related food security training	1,324
<b>% Female</b>	<b>42%</b>
% Male	58%
% DNA	0%
Number of individuals receiving nutrition-related professional training through USG-supported programs (e)	612,855
<b>% Female</b>	<b>69%</b>
% Male	26%
% DNA	5%
Number of children under five (0-59 months) reached with nutrition-specific interventions through USG-supported programs (f)	28,491,767
<b>% Female</b>	<b>37%</b>
% Male	34%
% DNA	29%
Value of annual sales of farms and firms receiving USG assistance (g)	\$1,683,248,584
# of which are from smallholder producers (h)	\$1,625,768,960
# of which are from non-smallholder producers (i)	\$5,280,227
# of which are from firms (j)	\$52,199,396
Value of agriculture-related financing accessed as a result of USG assistance (k, l)	\$429,134,649
# of which is cash debt (m)	\$428,950,587
Value of new private sector investment leveraged by the USG to support food security and nutrition (n)	\$234,489,309

## CHART NOTES

1. In October 2017, Feed the Future published an updated list of indicators as part of the Implementation Report for the *U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy*. These performance-management indicators are designed to measure progress against each result in the Feed the Future results framework during Phase Two of the initiative. Full definitions of indicators are available in the updated *Feed the Future Indicator Handbook* at [feedthefuture.gov/results](http://feedthefuture.gov/results).

2. Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 represents a transition year for results and therefore some values are likely underestimates. Projects have set targets for the new set of indicators but will not fully transition to reporting results for them until FY 2019. Therefore, some projects are reporting on old indicators while others report on updated indicators. This chart combines these data where appropriate. See the footnotes for details. For a full global results chart from FY 2011–FY 2018, visit [feedthefuture.gov/results](http://feedthefuture.gov/results).

3. U.S. Government Departments and Agencies that reported into the Feed the Future Monitoring System (FTFMS) include USAID, the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Treasury, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, Peace Corps and the U.S. African Development Foundation.

4. Indicators are reported for Feed the Future Target, Focus and Aligned countries in FY 2018. For a list of current Feed the Future countries, visit [www.feedthefuture.gov](http://www.feedthefuture.gov). Participating Federal Departments and Agencies do not necessarily report on all countries in which they have programs, and might only report on certain indicators. The USAID Office of Food for Peace has reported on Feed the Future indicators in non-aligned as well as non-focus countries where it has development programs, as have some other USG Feed the Future Departments and Agencies.

5. The data for output and outcome indicators above are directly attributable to USG funding. For the purposes of this report, a result is attributable to the USG,

or the USG can claim credit for a result, even when other partners are involved in achieving the result, if it can claim that without USG intervention the outcome would not have taken place.

## FOOTNOTES

a. This value includes results reported under the old indicator EG.3.2-17 and the new indicator EG.3.2-24. Results could underestimate the number of “non-producers” that applied as the new indicator captures a broader set of actors beyond the farm, and projects are transitioning to the new indicator.

b. Results could be underestimated, as past reporting did not include aquaculture hectares, and projects are transitioning to the new indicator.

c. This value includes all hectares reported under the old indicator EG.3.2-18 and results from the “cropland” and “cultivated pasture” disaggregated under the new indicator EG.3.2-25.

d. This value only reflects results from the new indicator EG.3.2-25.

e. This result includes some USAID activities beyond those funded by Feed the Future. This number represents the aggregate of country-wide results from nutrition interventions delivered through Feed the Future, USAID Food for Peace development investments, and USAID Global Health nutrition programs as part of a multi-sectoral effort to combat malnutrition.

f. This result includes some USAID activities beyond those funded by Feed the Future. This number represents the aggregate of country-wide results from nutrition interventions delivered through Feed the Future, USAID Food for Peace development investments, and USAID Global Health nutrition programs as part of a multi-sectoral effort to combat malnutrition. Individual USAID projects are instructed to count children only once even if they are reached several times. Starting in FY 2017, this revised indicator has captured nutrition-specific interventions only.

g. This value includes reporting-year sales reported under the old indicator EG.3.2-19 and the new indicator EG.3.2-26. Results could be underestimated, as past reporting did not include sales from non-smallholder producers and firms, and projects are transitioning to the new indicator.

h. These results include reporting-year sales reported under the old indicator EG.3.2-19 and those reported for the “producer: smallholder” disaggregate with the new indicator EG.3.2-26.

i. The low value of this result reflects a transition to new indicators. Past reporting did not include sales from non-smallholder farmers. This value only reflects results from the new indicator EG.3.2-26.

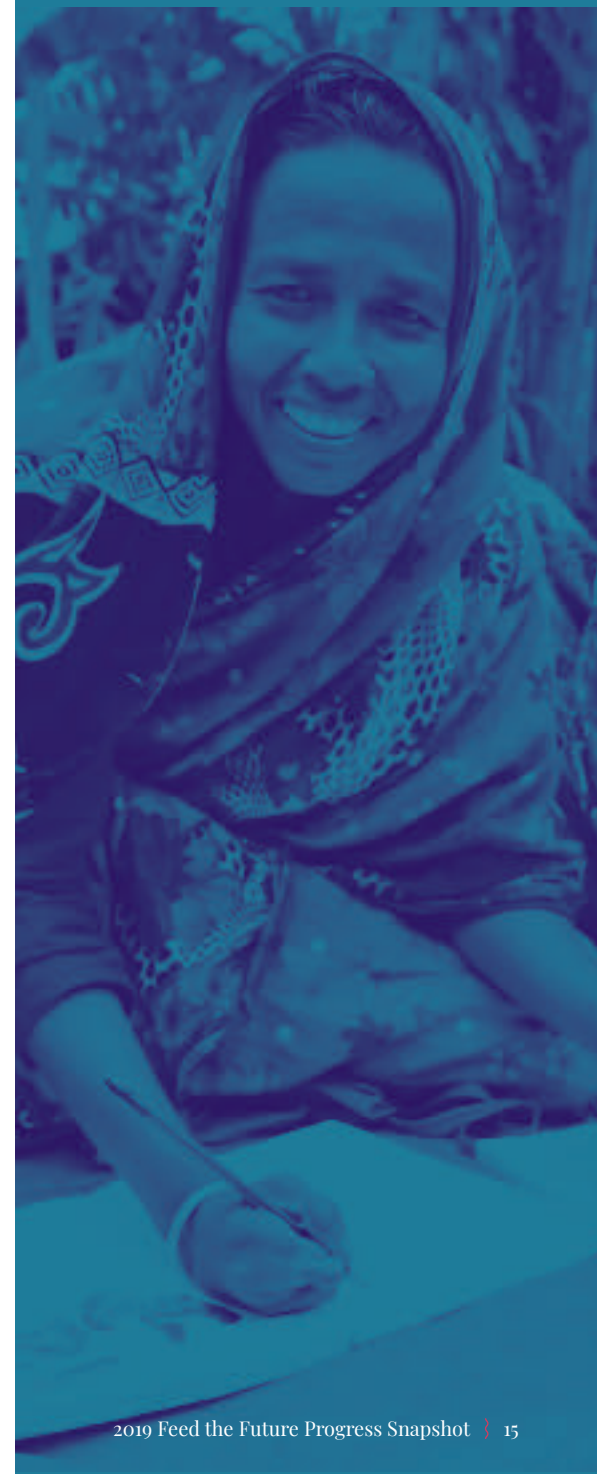
j. The low value of this result reflects a transition to a new indicator. Past reporting did not include sales from firms. This value only reflects results from the new indicator EG.3.2-26.

k. This total includes reporting from the old indicator on agricultural and rural loans EG.3.2-6 and the new indicator EG.3.2-27. Results could be underestimated as past reporting did not include non-cash debt (i.e., in-kind debt) and non-debt financing, and projects are transitioning to the new indicator.

l. Sex-disaggregation for this indicator will not be available until future reporting years because of a change in the definition of the indicator to remove shared ownership from the female disaggregate.

m. These results include the value of loans reported under the old indicator EG.3.2-6 and the value of “cash debt” reported under the new indicator EG.3.2-27.

n. These results include the value of private-sector capital investment reported under the old indicator EG.3.2-22 and private-sector investment reported under the new indicator EG.3.1-14. Results could be underestimated because previous reporting did not include operating capital investment amounts, and projects are transitioning to the new indicator.





In four years, in areas where  
Feed the Future works in Bangladesh:



*Over 800,000*

more women have greater control  
over their income



*1.2 million*

more women have greater input  
into productive decisions



*Over 500,000*

more women own assets



*1.8 million*

more women are comfortable  
speaking in public

Source: Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index





# Bangladesh

**E**mpowering women benefits both households and communities, and is also an important source of resilience. When women participate in household decision-making, their families are less likely to make choices that compromise their well-being during or after a crisis.

In 2011, Feed the Future and our partners developed the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index—or WEAI. The tool tracks five domains of empowerment that contribute to food security and the reduction of poverty: production, resources, income, leadership and time.

A variety of partners have used this tool to measure and inform their efforts to empower women around the world. In 2012, the WEAI found that in areas where Feed the Future was working in Bangladesh, 75 percent of women were disempowered. This information

moved the Government of Bangladesh to address the specific constraints women in agriculture face in the country.

Building on this country leadership, Feed the Future worked with the Government of Bangladesh and local non-governmental organizations to reduce gender inequities and foster an environment for women to empower themselves through the Bangladesh Women's Empowerment Activity. The project, launched in 2014, increased women's access to training, technology and inputs; promoted women as speakers in public events; provided childcare to facilitate women's participation in the workforce; and worked with couples to promote equitable decision-making.

Using data to guide its action, the project also reduced household-level gender inequities and empowered women. This one project alone provided 37,500 women and men

with training in entrepreneurship, agriculture and nutrition, a domain traditionally reserved for women. As a result, more than 26,000 women are now applying improved technologies, more than 11,000 more women now receive child care support, and 17,000 more women reported balanced household responsibilities since 2014.

The actions of Feed the Future and the Government of Bangladesh to foster women's empowerment have made a big difference.

By using WEAI data to drive decision-making, the Government of Bangladesh, Feed the Future and global and local partners were able to advance women's empowerment where traditionally women have faced significant barriers to inclusion. With an eye to the future, the Government also began using gender indicators in its national surveys to continue to track and respond to women's

needs and constraints in agriculture.

Today, governments and civil society in 52 countries around the world use the WEAI to assess and advance the empowerment of women at home and within their communities.





# Looking Forward

**H**unger is a vicious cycle that stifles growth and the potential for a healthy future, often passed down from one generation to the next.

We can break the connection between hunger and poverty. Feed the Future has proven that progress is possible. When we empower women and drive inclusive development, we strengthen that progress and create growth that leaves no one behind.

We have much to be proud of, but our work cannot stop there. To end hunger in our lifetimes, we need to keep the momentum strong. We must:

- Embrace research and innovation.
- Unlock more investment.
- Work together to tackle the entrenched drivers of hunger—from conflict and unpredictable weather to poor policies and inadequate food systems.

Today, the world faces increasingly complex challenges that threaten

progress on ending hunger and make the road ahead more difficult.

More than 800 million people across the world still go to sleep hungry each night, and with increasing conflicts, shocks and stresses around the globe, that number is on the rise.

That is why Feed the Future added strengthening resilience as an objective and seeks to bring sectors such as water, agriculture and nutrition together to accelerate and protect progress.

In the future, we will measure our success not just by the results we achieve, but by the increasing capacity and commitment of governments, civil society and business to own the solutions.

We look forward to the day when trade and investment with our partner countries are the norm, and aid is no longer needed.

A future in which:

- Children can focus on their school lessons rather than the pangs of hunger they experience.

- Farmers who were once barely able to get by are growing more every year and filling markets with their produce.
- Communities once ravaged by drought and uncertainty are finding their way back to stability.

Feed the Future is working to make this vision of a food-secure, resilient and prosperous world a reality.

Investing in women is key. When women do well, they lift their families and communities up with them. Feed the Future will continue to help women overcome the barriers they face.

As more women find success in the food system, good nutrition, resilience, and inclusive growth follow.

Ending hunger is possible. By working with others in service of this vision, we can turn scarcity into abundance, desperation into hope, and hardship into opportunity.

Feed the Future is working to make this vision of a food-secure, resilient, and prosperous world a reality.







# Photo Credits

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Bobby Neptune

**Inside Front Cover**

Bashir Ahmed Sujan

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Bobby Neptune

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Rustam Mailov

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Left to right: Anmol Dinkar Tirkey,  
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**Inside Back Cover**

Bobby Neptune

**Back Cover**

Bobby Neptune



“I am now a successful producer and entrepreneur. I am recognized as a leader in my community. I know that I am on the right path. I am somebody who matters and I hope that my children will have great futures.”

*Alimata Korogo, Burkina Faso*

(not pictured)









#HerImpact