



## Speaker Summary Note

**Session:** Transforming Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health Linkages

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In 2009, President Obama launched the Feed the Future initiative and pledged at least \$3.5 billion for agricultural development and food security between 2010 and 2012. This pledge helped leverage more than \$18.5 billion from other donors and recognized that investment in global food security offers important and significant economic, security, political, and moral advantages.

Feed the Future, the U.S. government's global hunger and food security initiative, renews our commitment to invest in combating the root causes of chronic hunger and poverty.

What are some of our accomplishments so far?

USAID, who leads the whole of government initiative, created a Bureau for Food Security in November. The Bureau for Food Security will drive our food security efforts—our Agency's top strategic priority—and lead the implementation of Feed the Future. This is a historic milestone in the Agency's renewed commitment to agriculture-led development and demonstrates that we are committed to food security for the long term.

We have completed food security implementation plans for 18 of 20 potential Feed the Future focus country, which describe start-up activities for the first year. The approved plans are public at [www.feedthefuture.gov](http://www.feedthefuture.gov) and are already being implemented.

We have realigned our agricultural development activities to country-identified priorities where we can partner with others to drive impact at scale. For instance, in Senegal, our team was spreading its work across twenty value chains throughout the country. Now, we have agreed to focus on four value chains in two regions of Senegal.

There are now comprehensive indicators and a results framework for Feed the Future that will be used by all USG agencies who are supporting Feed the Future activities. These are posted for feedback on [www.feedthefuture.gov](http://www.feedthefuture.gov). I encourage you all to look at our monitoring and evaluation tool and provide feedback.

The Agency has hired more than 50 additional USAID agriculture foreign-service officers.

We have conducted strategic reviews for 17 of the 20 potential Feed the Future focus countries, which details progress in the initiative to a high-level panel of interagency experts to strengthen our strategies.

The good news? The momentum to link agriculture, research and nutrition across programs is greater than ever before—and that is why you are all here.

We know the need is great. Nearly 200 million children under age five and 1 in 3 women are undernourished. Poor communities in developing countries disproportionately bear the greatest burden of undernutrition.

We know that our work is crucial. Investments in nutrition are highly cost-effective, and are paramount to the success of virtually all of the Millennium Development Goals. The 2008 Copenhagen Consensus—reached by a group of leading scientists and economists, including several Nobel laureates—found that 5 of the top 10 highest return solutions to global challenges (based on benefit-cost analysis) closely relate to combating undernutrition.

Improved nutrition is a critical driver for economic growth and poverty reduction. Strong nutrition in early life contributes to human and economic capacity through improved learning and productivity, and contributes to a robust, capable workforce. It also promotes gender equality and opportunities for women and girls, lessens susceptibility to other deadly diseases, and is critical to national prosperity, stability, and security.

Tackling undernutrition requires global cooperation that focuses on high-impact interventions and innovative solutions in both the agriculture and health sectors.

At the G-8 Summit in 2009, the international community committed to increase focus on food security and reverse the decades-long decline in assistance for agricultural development. It also accelerated global momentum to link nutrition and agriculture like never before.

The United States is a proud partner in this effort and is committed to supporting country-owned processes that integrate agriculture and nutrition for sustainable food security outcomes. Nutrition is the defining link between the two game-changing U.S. Presidential Initiatives: Feed the Future and the Global Health Initiative.

The United States is proud to play a leading role in the 1,000 Days movement to focus attention, align and increase resources, and build partnerships to promote results-oriented and timely implementation of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Framework. The SUN Framework has been endorsed by over 100 public and private stakeholders who aim to improve nutrition through increased advocacy and programming.

Efforts to integrate agriculture and nutrition programs will contribute to healthier, more productive and resilient communities by ensuring better access to better quality food, thereby increasing the quality and diversity of diets. They will also improve accessibility to water and sanitation and health systems and will support better nutritional practices in the household.