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STRATEGY
IMPLEMENTATION REPORT
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2020 Global Food Security Strategy (GFSS) Implementation Report

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LETTER FROM THE DEPUTY GLOBAL COORDINATOR OF FEED THE FUTURE

Throughout my long career as a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Foreign Service Officer, I have seen the power of agricultural development to change lives. This year, we as a global community mark ten years of progress under the Feed the Future initiative. This is a time for celebration and reflection on the initiative's success, and a time to redouble our efforts as the U.S. Government responds to the unfolding pandemic of COVID-19 and its devastating impact on global poverty and food security.

It reminds us of another crisis. In 2009, following the 2007–2008 global food price crisis, world leaders gathered to take action. As part of a \$20 billion pledge by G-8 countries and partners, the U.S. Government committed \$3.5 billion over three years to establish a global hunger and food-security initiative addressing not just the symptoms but the root causes of hunger and poverty worldwide. Feed the Future sought to reduce poverty, hunger, and malnutrition sustainably through comprehensive, country-owned strategies that deliver sustained results. Partnerships with the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other donors were, and continue to be, a key element of this approach.

In the decade since, Feed the Future has made steady progress in this endeavor, while also building resilience to recurrent crises. Led by USAID, our whole-of-Government approach draws from the expertise of multiple U.S. Government Departments and Agencies and works in tandem with a wide array of partners to support communities on their Journeys to Self-Reliance. In 2016, the United States Congress enacted the Global Food Security Act (GFSA) with bipartisan support, reflecting a landmark moment in recognizing the critical role of food security in development and national security. In October 2018, Congress passed into law the Global Food Security Reauthorization Act, which reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to empower smallholder farmers and communities. This commitment has supported sustained effort and progress. Over the last ten years, Feed the Future has helped an estimated 23.4 million more people rise above the poverty line and ensured 3.4 million more children are living free of stunting. An estimated 5.2 million more families are living free from hunger where Feed the Future has focused efforts.

Unfortunately, as the world knows all too well, the pandemic of COVID-19 now threatens this progress. It is estimated that, without intervention, the medium- to long-term impacts of COVID-19 would cause more than 100 million additional people to descend into extreme poverty in 2020, with a corresponding rise in chronic hunger, particularly in areas like Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. These impacts are projected to persist into 2021 and beyond. As this report describes in further detail, Feed the Future has responded swiftly to help stop the health crisis from becoming another major food crisis.

Despite these challenges, our results show that the Feed the Future model works. This report captures the strides made by the Feed the Future interagency and partners over the last year, even in the face of the pandemic of COVID-19 and other challenges. As Deputy Coordinator for Development for Feed the Future, I am proud of the results that Feed the Future has achieved since its inception. I would like to acknowledge the role that my predecessor, Dr. Beth Dunford, played in helping to lead Feed the Future to this point over the last five years. Progress might look different in the years ahead, but I am confident Feed the Future will continue to lift people from poverty, hunger, and malnutrition.

Jim Barnhart, Ph.D.

Deputy Coordinator for Feed the Future and Assistant to the Administrator for Resilience and Food Security

Main Report on 2020 Implementation of the *Global Food Security Strategy*

Overview

The *Global Food Security Strategy* (GFSS) is a five-year framework that guides the support of the U.S. Government (USG) to communities in developing countries seeking to reduce their food insecurity, malnutrition, and poverty while also building resilience to recurrent crises. Initially authorized by Public Law (P.L.) 114-195, the Global Food Security Act (GFSA) of 2016, and reauthorized by P.L. 115-266, the Global Food Security Reauthorization Act of 2017, the GFSS provides the framework for implementation of the USG’s Feed the Future initiative, a whole-of-Government effort led by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to reduce global poverty, hunger, and malnutrition sustainably. While responding to dynamic forces around the world, the GFSS draws on the successes and lessons learned from the first phase of Feed the Future to inform the ongoing second phase of the initiative’s implementation. This report summarizes our efforts and results to date, as required by Section 8(a) of P.L. 114-195 as amended by P.L. 115-266.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of Feed the Future. A decade ago, Feed the Future was born out of the 2007–2008 global food crisis that caused some of the sharpest spikes in food prices ever recorded and dramatically increased hunger and malnutrition in already-vulnerable communities. The United States and the global community responded swiftly, committing billions of dollars in financial support and bringing their collective expertise to address the root causes of these challenges and strengthen the foundations that underlie food systems. Over the past ten years, Feed the Future has made steady gains in creating a more food-secure world, achieving measurable impact in reducing poverty, hunger, and malnutrition.

At the start of the fourth year of implementation of the GFSS, Feed the Future saw significant progress in countries’ Journeys to Self-Reliance.¹ Feed the Future supported governments, the private sector, and communities in target countries in designing, managing, and funding solutions to their key development challenges while also addressing the root causes of global humanitarian needs.

Results

Over the last ten years, Feed the Future has helped an estimated 23.4 million more people rise above the poverty line and ensured 3.4 million more children are living free of stunting. An estimated 5.2 million more families are living free from hunger where Feed the Future has focused efforts. Poverty has dropped 23 percent in places where Feed the Future has worked, and child stunting has dropped 32 percent. In addition, since 2011, Feed the Future has unlocked more than \$3.5 billion in agricultural financing that enabled farmers and businesses to grow;

¹ “Journey to Self-Reliance” is the term USAID uses to refer to its approach of working with host-country governments and our partners to achieve locally sustained results, helping countries mobilize public and private revenues, strengthening local capacities, and accelerating enterprise-driven development. The overarching objectives are to achieve greater development outcomes and work toward a time when foreign assistance is no longer necessary.

helped farmers generate more than \$13.7 billion in agricultural sales; and developed and deployed more than 1,000 technologies and approaches for agriculture and nutrition.

Feed the Future has also made significant progress at the country level in target and aligned countries. For example, new data published in 2020 show that, in places where Feed the Future has worked in the People's Republic of Bangladesh, poverty dropped 37 percent from 2011 to 2018, women's empowerment increased 31 percent, and hunger dropped 68 percent.

Please [see the annual Feed the Future Progress Snapshot](#) for more information and stories on progress achieved in the past year and past decade by the initiative.

Strategic Response to the Impact of COVID-19

While the key tenets of the strategy are intact, we have faced enormous challenges and adjusted to address the pandemic of COVID-19. Against this backdrop of progress, 2020 has seen the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically change the global context. The pandemic now threatens these gains, as well as the USG's related efforts to build a water-secure world, which are critical to meeting health, food, and livelihood needs. Though it began as a health crisis, the virus's dire economic effects are already being felt and will reverberate for years to come. It is estimated that, without intervention, the medium- to long-term impacts of COVID-19 would cause more than 100 million additional people to descend into extreme poverty in 2020² with a corresponding rise in food insecurity and chronic hunger, particularly in areas like Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. This increase is projected to persist into 2021 and beyond. The impacts on maternal and child nutrition are also likely to be high. Initial projections show that an additional 6.7 million children could suffer from wasting in 2020, which combined with a 25 percent reduction in nutrition services, will result in 130,000 additional deaths in children under five years of age, over half of which would be in sub-Saharan Africa.³ Water security faces similar challenges, particularly in rural areas, even though access to adequate water supplies and handwashing are critical to both fighting the pandemic and recovering economically. Compounding the impact of the pandemic in East Africa and South Asia—with potential spread to West Africa—is a massive infestation of desert locusts that could exacerbate food insecurity and impair livelihoods, if not controlled.

Despite the challenges ahead, much has changed in the past ten years to give us hope that progress is still possible. This report outlines how Feed the Future USG interagency collaborators are mobilizing to respond to COVID-19 and our changing global context. In addition, we will discuss how we continue to make progress on the Journey to Self-Reliance, achieve sustainable results by mobilizing the private sector and investing in women, and leverage cutting-edge data, analytics, and evidence to improve our programming continuously.

² D. Laborde, W. Martin, and R. Vos. (2020). '[Poverty and food insecurity could grow exponentially as COVID-19 spreads](#)', in *COVID-19 and global food security*, eds. Johan Swinnen and John McDermott. Part One: Food security, poverty, and inequality, Chapter 2, Pp. 16-19.

³ Published online July 27, 2020: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)31647-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)31647-0/fulltext)

Within months of the emergence of the novel coronavirus, efforts to mitigate the spread of the pandemic of COVID-19 resulted in widespread loss of income and livelihood opportunities, precipitous declines in remittances, and significant market disruptions across the globe. These and other factors combined to severely diminish households' abilities to meet their daily food needs—particularly among highly vulnerable populations that were not receiving emergency food assistance prior to the pandemic. For Feed the Future Target and Aligned Countries, the pandemic's impact is projected⁴ to be significant, decreasing food access and increasing acute food insecurity, further exacerbated by loss of water access across the globe.

The full extent of disruptions and impacts on medium- to long-term food security and nutrition remain to be seen, but could be severe. It is already clear that restrictions on the movement of people and goods to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 have affected regional and local food supply chains, markets, small- and medium-sized businesses, and people's livelihoods and abilities to access and buy safe, nutritious food. Similar disruptions in primary health care, as well as water and sanitation systems and their long-term viability, have consequences for food security and nutrition as well. The pandemic of COVID-19 has also affected the safety of women and girls, and reports indicate substantial increases in domestic violence and other negative coping strategies as a consequence of the virus and various risk-mitigation measures. During the 2007–2008 food-price crisis, sharp increases in hunger and poverty may have contributed to political instability and unrest where grievances already existed. The pandemic could jeopardize hard-won gains made through Feed the Future in certain places.

Factoring in the likely impacts of COVID-19, USAID's Famine Early-Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) estimated in April 2020 that 113 million people in the 46 relatively food-insecure countries would face crisis or worse levels of hunger and require emergency food assistance in 2020. This marked a 25-percent increase in humanitarian need over pre-COVID-19 estimates for this time period. COVID-19 disruptions are also affecting development programming, including Feed the Future interagency staff and implementing partners who are significantly restricted in their abilities to access the field. All Peace Corps Volunteers, and a significant number of USAID Foreign Service Officers, evacuated to the United States. At the same time, the pandemic has caused programs and partners to find new and innovative ways of keeping programming going to bolster markets and food systems and avert spikes in need. Many Feed the Future programs are pivoting amid the pandemic to continue safely providing support in areas expected to be hit hardest by COVID-19's economic fallout.

There is, indeed, still reason for hope. In many developing countries, productivity growth in agriculture remains the most effective pathway out of poverty,⁵ and is expected to be the economic basis on which they will rebuild after the pandemic. COVID-19 has underscored the

⁴ D. Laborde, W. Martin, and R. Vos. (2020). '[Poverty and food insecurity could grow exponentially as COVID-19 spreads](#)', in *COVID-19 and global food security*, eds. Johan Swinnen and John McDermott. Part One: Food security, poverty, and inequality, Chapter 2, Pp. 16-19.

⁵ Fuglie, Keith; Gautam, Madhur; Goyal, Aparajita; Maloney, William F. 2019. *Harvesting Prosperity: Technology and Productivity Growth in Agriculture (English)*. Washington, D.C.: WorldBank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/845031568696802783/Harvesting-Prosperity-Technology-and-Productivity-Growth-in-Agriculture>

need for more resilient food systems, a challenge Feed the Future is well-positioned to help address in the decade ahead.

Building on experience and lessons learned from mitigating the food-security impacts of other shocks, such as the 2014 Ebola outbreak, Feed the Future mounted an early-development response to help stop the health crisis from becoming a major food crisis. Primarily through existing resources, U.S. Government Departments and Agencies prioritized the following areas for immediate action:

- Helping governments create and adopt smart policies that bolster food security, nutrition, and markets while maintaining safety;
- Unlocking and maintaining finance for farmers and businesses, particularly those run by women;
- Keeping small businesses open by helping them pivot their business models and serve customers safely;
- Promoting the safe and stable continuation of supply-chains, markets, and cross-border trade; and
- Stabilizing local food prices and supplies by helping farmers get access to seeds and inputs.

Through ten years of implementation of Feed the Future, we have learned a number of key lessons from a proven development model that delivers results. Our extensive network of partners allows us to draw on their technical expertise, experience, and resources to respond to these challenges nimbly and efficiently. Feed the Future will continue to elevate resilience and nutrition and encourage investments from host governments and the private sector across our programming to ensure communities navigate dynamic challenges to food security and nutrition successfully and continue to advance on their Journeys to Self-Reliance.

The Journey to Self-Reliance

Feed the Future supports national policy reform and implementation and urges governments to set their own policies and funding priorities for food security and nutrition. Feed the Future support has been instrumental to the efforts of the African Union and its 55 member countries to evaluate and encourage each country's progress toward resilience and food-security goals set by African leaders in 2014. Feed the Future support for national policy reform is also helping governments to adopt policies that will increase productivity and mitigate risk from emerging threats to agriculture, including private-sector enabling policies such as tax moratoria on agricultural investment, science-based policies enabling commercial adoption of biotechnologies, and policies safely promoting continuity of food supplies during COVID-19.

Graduation from Feed the Future Target Country status is a key milestone on the Journey to Self-Reliance. To fulfill Section 8(a)(5) of the GFSA, the Feed the Future interagency finalized the *Feed the Future Target Country Graduation Policy and Review Process* in May 2018 and began collecting data. Given the evolving dynamics of the pandemic of COVID-19, and its anticipated impact on the economies of any Target Country graduation candidates, the Feed the Future interagency decided to pause graduation reviews in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. Until the full impact of the pandemic is better understood, the USG interagency does not believe it is appropriate to

consider any of the 12 Target Countries for graduation. Feed the Future will revisit the graduation-review during the next calendar year, and the Feed the Future interagency will continue to monitor the unfolding economic impacts of COVID-19 closely.

Supporting Resilient, Productive, and Well-Nourished Communities

As countries progress on their Journeys to Self-Reliance, Feed the Future continues to play a critical role supporting our partners in their efforts to build more resilient food systems that deliver nutrition and inclusive economic growth. The initiative works in alignment with other sector initiatives, whole-of-Government strategies, and Congressional mandates. Increasingly, in accordance with the GFSA, Feed the Future is pursuing solutions and programs that bring together sectors such as agriculture, resilience, nutrition, and water for greater impact. For example, strengthening resilience helps to protect development gains and secure a pathway to self-reliance in at-risk regions and partner countries, including by reducing and even averting humanitarian need. Water security is critical not only for human health and nutrition, but agricultural production, poverty reduction, and economic growth as well.

Over the past year, key interagency achievements included the following:

- **Resilience:** USAID designated seven new Resilience Focus Countries (all of which are also Feed the Future Aligned Countries) and expanded related Feed the Future programming and resources to address chronic vulnerability and reduce future need for humanitarian assistance in areas subject to recurrent humanitarian crises. To support Feed the Future Target Countries in strengthening resilience to recurrent shocks and crises, Feed the Future agencies continued to refine important technologies used to forecast and monitor natural disasters. For example, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) of the U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) within the U.S. Department of Commerce provided technical input to USAID's FEWS NET. Joint support from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and the U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF) to the climate-resilient agriculture component of the MCC's Niger Compact Program is helping to boost resilience as well. In the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, USAID is conducting operational research aimed at scaling successful approaches to integrating government programs for social protection, increasing their efficiency and cost-effectiveness.
- **Agriculture-Led Growth:** Working closely with the USG interagency to strengthen warning and early response to reduce need for humanitarian assistance, USAID established a multi-disciplinary Agricultural Threats team to provide technical support to the field on issues related to current and emerging pests and diseases, such as locusts in Africa, that threaten agricultural growth and resilience in vulnerable regions. Feed the Future also implemented several innovative approaches and partnerships to unlock finance in the agriculture sector in developing countries and new partnership agreements with major U.S. food and agriculture as well as digital services companies. In addition, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and USAID established an Interagency Working Group on Research that includes numerous Departments and Agencies and across the USG to improve coordination, communication, and effectiveness of research

activities.

- **Nutrition:** Feed the Future helped advance the integration of nutrition into all Feed the Future country strategies, along with regional plans for Southern and West Africa, resulting in increased transparency and coordination while laying the groundwork for accelerated impact for improved nutrition.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has made maintaining and improving levels of resilience, agricultural-led growth, and nutrition in countries more essential than ever. To bolster support in these areas in response to the pandemic, Feed the Future Agencies and Departments across the USG embarked on a number of enhanced and supplemental activities in the past year. Examples include the following:

- **The Ghana Agricultural Development and Value Chain Enhancement II** program provided small grants to outgrower businesses and their supply-chains to help mitigate agricultural input supply-chain disruptions and increase access to finance.
- **The USAID Uganda Market-Systems Activity** solicited ideas from the Ugandan private sector for practical responses to the pandemic that would enable the agriculture sector to remain resilient. Five sub-awards include work on tailor-made extension materials, research tools for assessing agri-economic COVID-19 impacts and agri-business adaptation strategies, and facilitation of post-harvest handling services.
- **The Impact Assessment of COVID-19 on Food and Nutrition in Nigeria** helped the Federal Ministry of Health's Nutrition COVID-19 Response Task Team carry out a study to assess COVID-19's impact, ensure continuity of critical nutrition interventions during the pandemic, and inform actions for safe, resilient markets and food supply chains.
- **The U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF)** launched the USADF Capital for African Resilience-building and Enterprises Support (C.A.R.E.S) COVID-19 Program to provide working capital to approximately 300 African enterprises and entrepreneurs supported by USADF in its 21 countries.
- **The Board of Directors of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)** has approved the agency's new Rapid-Response Liquidity Facility. The facility will provide up to \$4 billion in additional financing for existing DFC projects that have been particularly affected by the challenges of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Mobilizing the Private Sector

A robust private sector is critical for advancing and sustaining inclusive, agriculture-led economic growth and nourishing populations. Feed the Future has a strong track record of engaging the private sector to modernize and transform food systems in Target and Aligned Countries; help them better serve low-income consumers, producers, and processors; make them more resilient against economic and environmental shocks; and increase their capacities to deliver safe, nutritious food year-round and long-term.

In the face of COVID-19, our commitment to partnering with and leveraging the private sector is more important than ever. Over the past year, Feed the Future continued developing private-sector partnerships to advance Feed the Future's goals, achieve business objectives, and support

the USG's broader policy priorities and initiatives. In October and November 2019, USAID established separate partnerships with John Deere and Mars, Inc., to provide smallholder farmers and agribusinesses with technical advice, capital, and equipment to help raise agricultural productivity, improve farmers' incomes, and unlock economic opportunities for women. In July 2020, the J.M. Smucker Company joined Partners in Food Solutions, a consortium of world-class food-industry companies that has worked with Feed the Future over the last decade to address food security, nutrition, and economic development across Africa. In addition, USAID and the DFC launched the Feed the Future Agriculture-Finance Unit, developed to support both Agencies' existing agriculture transactions and prioritize the sourcing, review, execution, and monitoring of financing and insurance transactions in FTF Target and Aligned Countries.

Moreover, with the pandemic's outbreak, Feed the Future quickly launched several activities using supplemental resources from the Economic Support Fund (ESF) to bolster the private sector. Key examples include support to the following:

- **Partnership for Inclusive Agricultural Transformation in Africa**, to collaborate with public and private sectors to develop and implement solutions to the needs of policymakers and small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
- **Feed the Future Partnering for Innovation** program to distribute grants and support to SMEs to continue operations.
- **INVEST** program to adapt current approaches to ensure SMEs have continuity of access to finance.
- **Feed the Future Partnership for Sustainable Supply-Chains Global Development Agreement (GDA)** with Root Capital and Keurig Dr. Pepper to provide technical support to complement a DFC guarantee, ensuring SMEs can access finance.

Women Leading the Way

Investing in women is more important than ever and remains a core principle of Feed the Future's work. Feed the Future is making a significant impact on gender equality and women's empowerment in its programming, policies, and research. Over the last year, the Feed the Future Advancing Women's Empowerment (AWE) Activity launched multiple applied research workstreams to inform programming on gender commitments in the GFSS, such as countering gender-based violence in agricultural programs and identifying practices that raise women's participation in higher-return portions of agricultural markets.

In light of COVID-19, Feed the Future and its partners began supporting a number of efforts to mitigate the specific impact of the pandemic on women. At the individual level, the pandemic is affecting women and girls the hardest, given their multiple roles as income-earners and caregivers and existing norms and practices that limit their access to information and resources. COVID-19, and measures to mitigate the spread of the virus, have contributed to alarming increases in domestic violence.⁶ Feed the Future is actively addressing these effects on women. For example, the Gender, Climate, and Nutrition Integration Initiative (GCAN) activity is exploring the differential effects of the pandemic of COVID-19 on women and girls in rural households. Another example includes the expansion of a Feed the Future program in the Federal

⁶ Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Women. United Nations, 9 April 2020. Web: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/04/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women>

Democratic Republic of Nepal to provide financial and technical resources to help women resume their businesses following prolonged COVID-19-imposed lockdowns.

Evidence and Research Lay the Groundwork

Between 2010 and 2019, Feed the Future made significant progress in reducing poverty and food insecurity and improving resilience and nutrition. In areas where Feed the Future works, an estimated 23.4 million more people live above the poverty line, 3.4 million more children live free from stunting, and 5.2 million more families no longer suffer from hunger.⁷

Building on the strong culture of learning established under the first phase of Feed the Future, the initiative uses monitoring and evaluation findings to improve programming continuously. Examples from the past year include Peace Corps' lessons learned on incorporating youth into its activities, as well as the USADF study findings on its coffee-sector investments, which will inform development of a coffee accelerator program. See Appendix 2 for additional details.

As impressive as these gains are, the previously cited data on COVID-19's early impact in 2020 underscores the challenges ahead. Feed the Future began responding to the pandemic's outbreak immediately with rapid data collection and analysis as well as programming. These efforts will be critical moving forward to help Feed the Future countries recover and resume the significant gains achieved in reducing poverty, hunger, and malnutrition and improving resilience during the first decade of the initiative.

Catalyzing Research Investments

The U.S. Government Global Food Security Research Strategy guides prioritization of Feed the Future's research investments in Feed the Future Innovation Labs, other U.S. university-based programs, and the centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Feed the Future refines and amplifies these investments in partnership with the presidentially appointed Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) attached to USAID and other activities sponsored by USG Departments and Agencies beyond the Feed the Future interagency. Of note over the past year, BIFAD released a [research report](#) in October 2019 on how U.S. foreign agricultural assistance is a win-win for both developing countries and the United States, promoting economic growth, stability, and food security for the world's poorest while also increasing U.S. exports and jobs, technology spillovers, health and nutrition, and global and U.S. security.

Even as we began to tackle the pandemic this past year, Feed the Future and USG Departments and Agencies initiated a number of efforts to ensure the effective use of resources for research to address the highest priorities of the GFSS. In December 2019, USAID and USDA established the Feed the Future Interagency Working Group on Research to support the implementation of the *Global Food Security Research Strategy*. See Appendix 1 for a summary of this group's work to date. To support COVID-19 mitigation measures during the pandemic, the Feed the Future research community also stepped up with emergency support. For example, the Feed the Future

⁷ In the coming year, final household surveys will be used to validate these projections.

Innovation Lab for Legume Systems Research used supplemental funds to scale and disseminate COVID-19 messages via animations in multiple languages. Policy research is informing governments about COVID-19 hotspots, modeling the secondary impacts on food security, and documenting policies that can mitigate these secondary impacts and ensure the continuity of operations in food supply-chains, supported by both flexing existing mechanisms and the ESF.

Appendices

Appendix A: Interagency Working Group Updates Under the *Global Food-Security Strategy* (GFSS)

Feed the Future has multiple Interagency Working Groups, most co-chaired by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and one of the 11 other partner Federal Departments and Agencies. Each Working Group leverages the expertise of the USG Agencies and Departments to advance its issue-specific agenda, guide the broader interagency group, and support governments, civil society, and the private sector in each of the Feed the Future countries as they implement their Feed the Future Country Strategies. A description of each working group can be found in last year's GFSS Implementation Report. Below are updates on the activities and achievements of the working groups over the past year.

Working Group on Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)

The interagency MEL Working Group, formed in 2016, reviews and updates GFSS indicators. This past year, the group explored ways to strengthen collaboration, sharing, and learning among agencies. Ideas for further discussion included creating a repository for agency experiences and best practices on the collection of key Feed the Future indicators, as well as sharing examples of how different agencies use indicator data. The group also worked with each Department and Agency that reports performance monitoring to ensure that indicator results were captured for the full breadth of their food-security efforts worldwide, as called for under the GFSS. This is in contrast to the more limited set of activities or countries the interagency had initially identified at the start of the initiative. The result is a more comprehensive picture of the USG's work in food security.

Working Group on Research

USAID and USDA launched the Feed the Future Interagency Working Group on Research in December 2019, holding a kick-off meeting co-chaired by Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture Hutchins and former USAID Assistant to the Administrator Dr. Beth Dunford. The group supports implementation of the *Global Food Security Research Strategy* to support research investments to “align and leverage broader United States strategies and investments in science and technology, agricultural research and extension” and “harness science, technology, and innovation, including the research and extension activities supported by relevant Federal [D]epartments and [A]gencies” (GFSS, 2016). Core members include representatives from across USG science agencies and departments. The working group supports research that partners and engages with others, including the private sector.

Working Group on Policy

Transformational policy, embraced by host-country governments, key stakeholders, and partners, is critical to the success of Feed the Future, and particularly important is enabling policy for private-sector investment. Countries become more self-reliant when their governments are committed to making food security a priority and build the framework and allocate budget to deliver on inclusive plans that recognize the role of the private sector and civil society. The

interagency Working Group on Policy identifies best practices and approaches and disseminates them across the USG to inform the design and implementation of projects and programs. Key achievements in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 included the following:

- Completion of revised policy matrices for Feed the Future Target Countries to reflect new Country Plans and their respective policy priorities, as well as new GFSS Policy Technical Guidance, and to improve the reporting process.
- Preparation and delivery of the USAID training course “Policy to Advance Food Security and Inclusive Agricultural Growth” in Washington, D.C., and Pretoria, South Africa.
- Increased engagement with, and support for, U.S. Embassies and USAID Missions that are developing policy activities that target resilience and food security, including in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the Republic of Sénégal, among others.
- Increased interagency consultation on trade-related programming in FTF countries and communication on areas of intensifying global interest, such as food systems.

Working Group on Private-Sector Engagement

This working group is co-chaired by USAID and the new U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), which evolved from what was previously the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and was formally set up in December 2019. Given the transitions inherent in DFC’s establishment, the group also underwent a phase of transition and adaptation to the new structure this past year. Prior to the DFC’s stand-up, a notable group achievement was its collaboration with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to support an agricultural technology forum at the World Food Prize event in October 2019.

Working Group on Nutrition

Under the USG’s *Global Nutrition Coordination Plan*, the interagency is accountable for coordinated actions that provide the backbone for collaborative nutrition programming, including the creation of a Government-wide GFSS Sub-Technical Working Group to serve as a leader and convener for action and information-sharing. This year, the group built on previous years’ activities by supporting the implementation of Feed the Future country strategies, resulting in increased transparency and coordination, and accelerating impact. Group members also supported the development and review of Feed the Future regional plans in Southern and West Africa. Additionally, group members contributed to the USG’s feedback on the draft Committee on World Food Security Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, which is developing guidance for governments and other stakeholders on policies, investments, and institutional arrangements to address important causes of malnutrition through food systems.

Working Group on Food Safety

In 2016, a group of subject-matter experts from USAID, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) established a USG Interagency Working Group on Food Safety (FSWG) to further the global effort to address food safety, within the scope of USAID’s Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy and the USG’s Global Nutrition Coordination Plan (GNCP). Safe food supplies support national economies and trade and tourism, contribute to food and nutrition security, and underpin sustainable development. The FSWG promotes nutrition, food security, and trade via a platform for the interagency exchange of food-safety information and

experiences and by exploring opportunities for collaboration with U.S. Embassies and USAID Missions abroad.

This year, the FSWG has strengthened coordination and communication among several USG Departments and Agencies including USAID, HHS/FDA, USDA (Food Safety and Inspection Service, Foreign Agriculture Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) and the U.S. Codex Office. This has improved common understanding of food safety–related programming, increased collaboration and greater effectiveness of food safety–related activities and investments, and leveraged existing interagency resources to better support USG posts globally. To maximize interagency and field engagement, the FSWG developed a new engagement plan in FY 2020 to increase webinars on food-safety issues that are open to non-USG partners.

Working Group on Global Engagement

The interagency Working Group on Global Engagement shares information and improves the consistency of U.S. positions in global policy fora and discussions on food security. By improving coordination across global processes, such as Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum, the Group of Seven (G-7), the Group of 20 (G-20), and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the working group contributes to the coherence and amplification of the USG’s priorities and messages, a unified and effective interagency effort, and consistency and stability for long-term and strategic development gains. Accomplishments of the Working Group this past year include the following:

- Coordination of initial interagency consultations on: 1) the 2021 United Nations (UN) Food Systems Summit; 2) key food-security terminology, which have contributed to formal interagency processes; and 3) planning for U.S. involvement in a future Nutrition for Growth Summit (postponed in 2020 due to COVID-19).
- Sharing of key summit outcomes and related documents from APEC, the G-7, the G-20, CFS, the Informal North American Regional Conference of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program and International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Working Group on Communications and Outreach

The interagency Working Group on Communications and Outreach brings together communicators from the USG Agencies and Departments that comprise Feed the Future. The Working Group promotes consistent messaging and contributes interagency accomplishments and stories to Feed the Future’s platforms for amplification. Bi-weekly updates circulated among the Working Group and quarterly roundtables with external communicators keep the USG interagency connected on current priorities, projects, and events. Accomplishments from this past year include the following:

- ***Feed the Future Newsletter:*** The *Feed the Future Newsletter* engages the broader stakeholder community with stories on the USG’s efforts and progress. From October 2019–2020, USG interagency partners contributed to a total of five newsletters, distributed to a list of more than 6,000 readers, with themes such as country ownership, research and innovation, and private-sector engagement.
- **Strategic planning:** The Working Group met quarterly to share updates, events, and campaigns, and develop the 2020 Progress Snapshot and Feed the Future Week events.

Appendix B: Updates from Individual U.S. Government Departments and Agencies on Their Implementation of the *Global Food Security Strategy* (GFSS) 2017–2021

This appendix provides the fourth annual update of the Federal Department- and Agency-specific progress within the U.S. Government (USG) in carrying out the GFSS and the implementation plans provided in Annex 1 of the *Strategy*. Led by USAID, the Feed the Future interagency group consists of USG partners* that provide a range of financing, technical assistance, and research to support Feed the Future countries in addressing issues of food security, resilience, nutrition, and water security. Of significance this past year, the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) launched in January 2020 as a modernized successor to the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). A detailed overview of the work of each Department and Agency, their partners, and targeted beneficiaries appears in previous GFSS Implementation Reports.

** Note: While the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) and the Inter-American Foundation (IAF) are not implementing Agencies for GFSS, they participate and collaborate in the Washington-based interagency working groups.*

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

Over the last year, USAID led the interagency in supporting Feed the Future partner countries on their Journeys to Self-Reliance. Highlights of these efforts include the following:

- **Resilience:** In addition to supporting the seven new Resilience Focus Countries, USAID awarded \$30 million in Resilience Challenge Funds (RCF) in April 2020 to selected new and ongoing USAID Missions. This built on investments and programs that a) scale resilience programs; b) demonstrate innovative and impactful approaches to building resilience to recurrent crises; and c) influence and leverage significant non-USG resources to scale those approaches. For example, USAID is supporting the design and scaling plans for the resilience programs of the Government of Ethiopia (GOE), including the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and the Community-Based Health Insurance Program, to increase efficiency and cost-effectiveness. In the Republic of Malawi, USAID is helping smallholders to increase yields, and leveraging private-sector resources, to build community resilience.
- **Agriculture-Led Growth:** In addition to its creation of an interagency Emerging Threats Team, USAID's Center for Agriculture-Led Growth helped to establish the Research Community of Practice that oversees the Bureau's research portfolio, ensuring that investments are based on rigorous scientific standards and result in accelerated impacts on the ground. Further, a new agriculture innovation platform, established through a partnership with USAID/West Africa, USAID/Sahel Regional Office, the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF), and the FTF Innovation Labs, will serve as a critical conduit for the Center's research outputs to USAID Missions and host-country partners while building local research self-reliance and accelerating development impacts.

- **Nutrition:** In addition to USAID’s previously mentioned work helping to further integrate nutrition into all FTF country strategies, USAID nutrition technical teams have completed “Nutrition Country Reviews” for 22 USAID Missions, including in the People’s Republic of Bangladesh; the Kingdom of Cambodia; the Democratic Republic of Congo; the Federal Democratic Republics of Ethiopia and Nepal; the Republics of Ghana, Guatemala, Haïti, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Sénégal, Tajikistan, Uganda, and Zambia; the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the United Republic of Tanzania; and USAID’s Regional Mission in the Sahel. In addition, under the leadership of USAID’s new Chief Nutritionist and Nutrition Leadership Council, USAID was at the forefront in developing and widely disseminating approaches to mitigate COVID-19 impacts on nutrition through *COVID-19: Shocks on Nutrition and Potential Mitigation USAID Guiding Principles and Recommendations*.
- **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH):** In addition to designating eight new Water for the World Act High Priority Countries, USAID also developed and published the first four in a series of [technical briefs](#) designed to provide water and sanitation guidance to both USAID’s Missions and implementing partners. The four briefs are publicly available and demonstrate the new Water Leadership Council’s growing global thought-leadership in the sector and its systems approach to sustainable service delivery, which is critically important to productive economies and well-nourished communities.

In supporting these areas over the past year, USAID also continued to invest in cross-cutting programming across its portfolio in the areas of private-sector partnerships, women’s empowerment, policy-making, and research across its portfolio. This included the previously noted private-sector partnerships with John Deere, the Mars Company, and the J.M. Smucker Company. In terms of support to women’s empowerment, USAID continued the Feed the Future Advancing Women’s Empowerment (AWE) Activity, launching multiple applied research workstreams to inform programming on gender commitments in the GFSS. In addition, through the Partnership for Inclusive Agricultural Transformation in Africa (PIATA), USAID has engaged the governments of 11 focus countries and partners across the continent to strengthen government capacity, build supporting policies, and enhance mutual accountability. Finally, research innovations continued to be a major focus of USAID’s support to Feed the Future countries in FY 2020. USAID established the Feed the Future Crop Improvement Innovation Lab in October 2019 with a \$25 million investment to Cornell University to connect breeding efforts with demand to get new and better seeds to smallholder farmers through markets. In addition that month, USAID launched its next phase of agricultural biotechnology investments.

This support to Feed the Future countries over the last year was enhanced by USAID’s internal restructuring. As part of the Agency’s Transformation, the Bureau for Resilience and Food Security (RFS) will build on the successes of the Bureau for Food Security (BFS) in implementing the GFSS through coordination of Feed the Future. RFS is part of a new structure at USAID—called “R3” (Relief, Response, and Resilience)—designed to better integrate humanitarian assistance, crisis prevention and stabilization, and food security to work across this spectrum. Of particular note, the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) within R3 contributes to Feed the Future objectives through its approximately \$360 million annual investment in its portfolio of multi-year Development Food-Security Activities financed with appropriations authorized under Title II of the Food for Peace Act. RFS is working strategically

across the Agency to scale up investments in resilience, agriculture-led growth, nutrition, water security, sanitation, and hygiene, with a focus on improving support to the field and providing global leadership. The integration of water security, sanitation, and hygiene into RFS's investments is expected to give heightened prominence to the role that water security plays in sustainably reducing poverty, hunger, and malnutrition. In addition to supporting communities in partner Feed the Future countries on their Journeys to Self-Reliance, RFS leveraged its new multi-sectoral and field-focused structure to respond to COVID-19 rapidly.

Lessons Learned

Over the past year of GFSS implementation, USAID continued to draw lessons learned from its programming and shared these insights with Feed the Future partners through conferences and workshops, webinars, and publications. Overall, USAID found that commitment and capacity in Feed the Future countries remain key to implementing the GFSS successfully. Women's empowerment is critical to unlocking this progress; private-sector participation provides a necessary engine to growth and monitoring and evaluation must occur continuously to ensure programs are adapting to reflect the most recent evidence. Notable lessons learned at the activity level, which will inform future programming, included the following:

- **Integration of Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture, Nutrition, and WASH Activities to Reduce Stunting:** In the Cambodia, USAID supported the Feed the Future Nourish Activity and found that it contributed significantly to reducing stunting in the targeted geographic area. The endline survey conducted in 2018 indicated that the stunting prevalence among children under five years old declined significantly from 34.3 percent at the 2015 baseline to 27.8 percent by the 2018 endline results.
- **Importance of Targeting Resilience Investments to Local Context:** In Niger, the RISE I mid-line population-based survey results found that while USAID's resilience programming is effective, it must pay more attention to localized shocks and have sufficient response capacity to reduce the number of households taking extreme measures to survive. In this way, development progress can be preserved better, raising the likelihood of households permanently escaping poverty.
- **Drivers of Women's Empowerment:** USAID conducted ethnographic research on women's empowerment that emphasized women's desire for revenue-generating activities and education. Activities intended to improve women's empowerment should be designed cohesively to address all four of the following aspects: capacities, opportunities, resources, and social or environmental constraints.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

USDA continued to contribute to the GFSS objectives over the last year consistent with its Implementation Plan. In FY 2020, USDA further strengthened collaboration with USAID and the interagency, and partners, with a policy focus on the role of agricultural trade and agricultural research in supporting global food security, and by implementing its aligned programs. USDA also responded quickly to address the immediate effects of COVID-19. Under its McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, USDA authorized the distribution of approximately 19,233.52 metric tons (MT) of U.S.-donated commodities to more than 1,915,948 households of children, cooks, and teachers who would usually be attending primary and pre-primary schools supported by McGovern-Dole program, of which 451.07 MT are locally or regionally purchased commodities benefitting 85,261 households of children, cooks, and

teachers. The McGovern-Dole program also approved distribution of educational materials to support and enable technology-appropriate distance learning.

Lessons Learned

USDA is applying new evidence and lessons learned in its programming for food assistance. For example, in December 2019, a university partner completed a sustainability-focused evaluation of three completed Food for Progress projects that resulted in the identification of six criteria for increasing the likelihood of the sustainability of a project. These criteria and the other evaluation findings are being directly incorporated into the solicitation and proposal review process for the FY 2020 Food for Progress funding cycle. Food for Progress also incorporated stakeholders' lessons learned and new evidence submitted in response to its "Requests for Information on Cacao, Coffee, and Spices" into its programming, such as the importance of diversifying income streams for farmers to help them manage risk and build resilience and not resort to felling cacao trees during market downturns. USDA's programs will continue to apply lessons learned and evidence to strengthen efforts towards global food security.

U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC)

In FY 2020, DOC continued to address global food insecurity through two of its Bureaus: the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the International Trade Administration (ITA). Over the last year, NOAA has provided weather forecasting data, new research, and capacity-building to enhance partners' abilities to improve weather forecasting, hydrologic modeling and prediction, and drought early warning to mitigate against the impacts of changing climate on food supplies (*i.e.*, crops, livestock, and fisheries). For example, NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) Climate Prediction Center provided technical decision support, including forecast production and risk assessments, to USAID's Food for Peace Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET). NOAA's Physical Sciences Laboratory supports FEWS NET with applied climate predictability research to improve seasonal forecasts of agricultural drought. Through ITA and its Foreign Commercial Service (FCS) offices in Feed the Future countries, DOC has continued raising awareness among U.S. companies about opportunities for increased trade with Feed the Future private-sector markets, as well as sharing data with partners about market expansion opportunities in the United States. This has been carried out through international trade missions, trade shows, Business-to-Business and Government-to-Government matching and advocacy, and dissemination of publications such as Country Commercial Guides and Top Market Reports. In terms of DOC's COVID-19 response, NOAA began an impact study to assess the effects of COVID-19 on the seafood supply chain, including, but not limited to, U.S. harvesters (wild and farmed), seafood dealers and processors, seafood wholesalers and distributors, and the recreational for-hire sector.

Lessons Learned

The collective DOC activities described above were not specifically designed nor funded to promote global food security, but were ongoing, standing workstreams to carry out individual Bureaus' mandates. For example, NOAA's core mission is to provide its partners access to comprehensive oceanic, atmospheric, and geophysical data, and ITA's mission is in part to facilitate U.S. exports, including U.S. products that address global food insecurity. The activities nevertheless contributed to Feed the Future. The impact of these activities relative to the GFSS, however, cannot be quantified because the indicators that the Bureaus use to monitor, measure,

and evaluate performance are not designed to address food security. NOAA and ITA will continue to support global food security, albeit indirectly, through their core missions. At the same time, ITA has used, and will continue to use, the real-time knowledge of national-level government agriculture/food processing capacity-building strategies, as afforded by Feed the Future's teams on the ground through the Country Plan process, for example, in carrying out ITA's mission to facilitate U.S. exports.

U.S. Department of State (State)

In 2020, the Department of State (DOS) continued supporting the GFSS through its promotion of global, regional, national, and subnational policies that foster sustainable reductions in hunger and malnutrition, drive increases in sustainable agricultural development, and promote U.S. economic prosperity and national security. Over the last year, DOS engaged heavily in policy discussions on food systems, including within the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The Department also negotiated the Committee on World Food Security Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition and supported planning for the Nutrition for Growth Summit. The Department also promoted trade and investment policies to improve global food security and open foreign markets for U.S. firms as well as policy and regulatory outreach to promote agricultural biotechnology and other innovative tools to increase long-term agricultural productivity. The Department identified and monitored emerging issues in food security, such as conflict-driven food insecurity, the desert locust infestation, the need for biodefense, and the impact of COVID-19 on food security and food systems

U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury)

Treasury leads on U.S. engagement on agricultural issues for the multilateral development banks, as well as for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP). For IFAD, Treasury engages through the Governing Council, Executive Board, and Audit Committee. In FY 2020, Treasury continued to maintain its oversight role and push for U.S. policy priorities, including the Debt Sustainability Framework Reform, which will help to support the financial sustainability of IFAD and guarantee appropriate financing levels for low-income countries in debt distress. Treasury also worked with stakeholders, through its position on the GAFSP Steering Committee, to refine GAFSP's model and examine its role in the food-security financing architecture. In FY 2020, Treasury supported GAFSP's allocation of \$127.6 million in grant financing to low-income and fragile countries. In addition, through its governance roles in IFAD and GAFSP, Treasury supported the allocation of \$40 million to IFAD's COVID-19 Rural Poor Stimulus Facility and \$57 million in additional GAFSP funding to ongoing public-sector and producer organization projects to address the secondary impacts of the pandemic on food security.

Lessons Learned

In FY 2020, IFAD and GAFSP both continued using evaluation and learning to enhance development effectiveness in their projects:

- **IFAD:** IFAD has continued to implement its Development Effectiveness Framework, which aims to strengthen the design of IFAD's projects and allow for closer monitoring and evaluation. This framework helps IFAD identify interventions that address key

development problems and are likely to be successful in achieving specified development objectives. IFAD has also committed to conducting rigorous impact assessments on a representative set of approximately 15 percent of projects during the IFAD-11 period (2019–2021). These assessments will be used for accountability, learning, and assessment of value for money as well as to communicate results with stakeholders. Lastly, IFAD’s Independent Office of Evaluation produced several timely reports last year, including a Corporate-Level Evaluation on IFAD’s Engagement in Pro-Poor Value Chain Development.

- **GAFSP:** GAFSP continued advancing its efforts to enhance development effectiveness over the last year through ongoing, rigorous impact evaluations of its public- and private-sector projects. GAFSP will use the findings to inform policy development, project design, and conversations with host governments and other key stakeholders.

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)

Over the last year, MCC continued its commitment to Feed the Future through food security–related investments in Niger, Morocco, and Sierra Leone:

- **Niger:** MCC’s Niger Compact piloted an electronic voucher system during the 2019 agricultural campaign under its Private-Sector Fertilizer Reform Activity to increase agricultural productivity and boost food security. While challenges remain with the existing government agency’s delivery of adequate supplies of fertilizer at local sales points, the pilot successfully demonstrated that Nigerian farmers and agrodealers can use this system effectively to apply the subsidy at the point of sale.
- **Morocco:** In connection with MCC’s Morocco II Compact, the Government of Morocco adopted in late 2019 important legal reforms that improve women’s rights to own and inherit collective land. MCC is directly supporting the implementation of this legal change as part of the Rural Land Activity, a program that is piloting a faster and more inclusive process for providing farmers and their families with individual titles to the collective land they have been farming for generations.
- **Sierra Leone:** The Sierra Leone Threshold Program continues to strengthen the national WASH sector and Freetown’s water utility (Guma Valley Water Company). In FY 2020, MCC completed assessments of the physical water system, including the 58-year-old dam, and implemented a results-based financing (RBF) program that was enthusiastically embraced by the utility.

MCC has developed compact-wide COVID-19 plans that are country-specific, coordinated with our local implementing entities. Additionally, all contractors operating on MCC compacts have submitted COVID-19 action plans. In Morocco, for example, the legal literacy training offered to communities benefiting from the land-titling process will include communication on protection from COVID-19.

Lessons Learned

In late 2019, MCC convened an event titled, “Agriculture and Irrigation Day of Learning: Improving Measurement of Agriculture Investments” to share techniques for measuring and evaluating based on MCC’s past agricultural activities in several countries, including Burkina Faso, Senegal, and Moldova. The event explored the possibility of incorporating new

technologies to measure agricultural outcomes in an unbiased and precise way at a lower cost. By continuously monitoring impact, such methods offer an advantage over household surveys, which only address a particular point in time. In 2020, MCC piloted remote-sensing techniques in Niger to collect data on cropping patterns and expected yields, which provide indications of improved adoption of good agricultural practices. These new tools provide a way to track progress and feed into course-correction during project implementation and could even be used by beneficiaries to improve their farming practices.

U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)

As noted earlier in the report, DFC was launched in December 2019 as a modernized development finance institution, expanding the tools and capacity of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). Since its establishment, DFC has started mobilizing private investment to help farmers produce more food and reach more consumers. DFC and USAID jointly began collaborating on the Feed the Future Agriculture-Finance Unit, developed to support both Agency’s existing agriculture transactions and prioritize the sourcing, review, execution, and monitoring of financing and insurance transactions in Feed the Future Target and Aligned Countries. This will align DFC’s efforts and enabling tools with other Feed the Future agencies while strengthening the development impact of DFC’s investment capital and ensuring robust monitoring and evaluation. Recent investments in the sector include:

- **WayCool Foods:** DFC financing helped this small business reduce food waste in India by building a “farm to fork” value chain and introducing technology, quality controls, and efficient transportation to food vendors. WayCool has enabled farmers to increase their income by 30 percent, while helping alleviate widespread malnutrition.
- **Australis Aquaculture:** Financing supported the creation of Vietnam’s first open water fish farm, which is raising barramundi, adopting modern fishing techniques, while selling fish high in nutritional value to major retailers around the world.

Lessons Learned

Because food produced often spoils before it can reach consumers, investments in value chains that can efficiently transport food are key to advancing food security. DFC’s model of mobilizing private investment is effective in bringing significant resources and expertise to strengthen agriculture value chains to help ensure that smallholder farmers can access larger markets and more food reaches consumers.

The Peace Corps

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, more than 1,400 Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) in 47 countries were promoting and disseminating food and nutrition security-related knowledge, innovations and interventions to increase food availability, access, and utilization, as well as, to strengthen household resilience in poor, mainly rural communities. Using evidence-based methods of knowledge and skills transfer and behavior-change communication, PCVs and their counterparts conducted capacity-building activities specifically to increase the productivity, diversity, and sustainability of agricultural crops and livestock; increase incomes; and improve household dietary diversity. As of March 25, 2020, all PCVs were evacuated to the United States due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Peace Corps plans to resume operations overseas and return PCVs to the field once it is safe to do so.

Lessons Learned

The Peace Corps has continued to learn from its programming and adapt new programs accordingly:

- **Adapting PCV Programming to Global and Country Instability:** Increasingly, as more frequent and intense social, economic, and environmental shocks affect the countries where the Peace Corps operates, programming and project design must be more adaptive. Moving forward, the Peace Corps agriculture and environment projects, in particular, will continue to focus on assisting communities and households to adapt to the new normal, promoting “climate-smart” farming and natural-resource management practices that allow households and communities to adapt to, reduce, or mitigate shocks, and build resilience.
- **Growing Youth Participation in Peace Corps Activities:** Monitoring of food- and nutrition-related indicator data continued to show significant youth participation in PCV activities. In FY 2019, nearly 40 percent of project participants were under 25 years of age. While the data for FY 2020 are incomplete due to the evacuation of all PCVs in mid-March, this trend is reinforced by the fact that six out of eight agriculture projects (out of a total of 19) reviewed and revised in the last two years have incorporated youth, including both in-school and out-of-school, as targeted beneficiaries in their new project designs, which were set for full implementation in FY 2020.

Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR)

In FY 2020, USTR worked to develop and maintain open markets globally through its trade initiatives and participation in international organizations. USTR participated extensively at the WTO, including the Committees on Agriculture, Import Licensing, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), to raise questions with other countries regarding domestic support, market access, export competition, technical regulations, import licensing, and animal and plant health and food safety. Beyond these activities, USTR continued promoting trade facilitation and support multiple trade initiatives and U.S. preference programs, including the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA), the Nepal Trade Preference Act, and the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). In addition, USTR conducts direct bilateral engagement with other country governments through free trade agreements, trade preference programs, and trade and investment framework agreements (TIFAs).

Lessons Learned

Integrating developing economies, economies in transition, and emerging economies into the international trading system can bring tremendous benefits. By encouraging countries to develop transparent, rules- and science-based trade and investment policies consistent with their international obligations, trading partners can realize the full benefits of trade liberalization. That liberalization in turn benefits U.S. producers by creating and maintaining reliable trading partners abroad.

U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF)

Since October 1, 2019 (FY 2020), USADF awarded \$15.6 million in grants in its agriculture program, directly affecting more than 76,500 people, including more than 41,000 women. USADF programmed \$4.3 million of small grants in Niger through an interagency agreement (IAA) with MCC for the climate resilient agriculture component of the MCC-Niger compact. In

addition, USADF continued leveraging matching co-investments from African governments including Benin, Uganda, Malawi, Senegal, Ivory Coast, and Nigeria. There are currently two separate state-level co-funding agreements with Niger and Kebbi State in Nigeria to co-invest with USADF to support smallholder agriculture-led growth and improve outcomes for food security. In terms of USADF's COVID-19 response, the Foundation launched the Capital for African Resilience-building and Enterprises Support (C.A.R.E.S) Initiative, through which it has provided immediate assistance to nearly 455 African enterprises in 27 countries to address immediate business continuity and liquidity issues, staff salaries, and working capital needs.

Lessons Learned

In FY 2020, USADF conducted an assessment of its investments in the coffee value chain and found that its capital has provided cooperatives with critical processing infrastructure and targeted training to improve production and management systems. Since 2015, USADF has invested \$5 million in 30 coffee cooperatives across six countries (Burundi, DRC, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda). Using these findings, USADF began developing a coffee accelerator program to further increase its impact in the coffee sector, connecting smallholder coffee producers to market opportunities and helping them use coffee earnings to bolster food security and investment in their communities. USADF is developing a non-sector-specific framework based on the coffee framework that will be applied to other sectors where it makes large investments.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

In FY 2020, USGS made significant contributions to Feed the Future GFSa implementation through the following:

- **Improvements to the Famine Early-Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET):** In the past year, USGS developed a number of resources to help empower food-security analysts to guide development, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction activities more effectively. These included a global monthly temperature dataset (0.05 deg resolution, 1982–2016) and related paper an improved gridded rainfall archive, standardized global ensemble forecast data and publication of the book “21st Century Drought Early Warning: Theory and Practice.”
- **Development of New Maps to Inform Food Security and Resilience Efforts:** In Malawi, USGS completed a time-series of land cover and agricultural maps and detailed analyses of cropland area and trends (1985 to 2017), which were used to inform commitments to restore 4.5-million hectares of degraded land by 2030, with a goal to promote agroforestry practices to improve food security and increase climate resilience.

In terms of its response to COVID-19, USGS supported the launch of an impact study on the pandemic's effects on agriculture in the southern Africa region. USGS provided end-of-season crop condition data (crop model output) to FEWS NET for multiple livelihood zones for crop season 2020 compared to various baseline years.

Lessons Learned

A notable event of the past year was the extreme Indian Ocean Dipole, and the related extreme rainfall and locust outbreak in East Africa. FEWS NET and partners prepared a special report

focusing on the event, including a retrospective evaluation of predictive potential. The evaluation indicated clearly that skillful forecasts could have been made in early November. Thus, more attention could be placed on anticipating episodes of heavy rainfall. While individual flood events or cyclones will be hard to anticipate, predicting episodes of very wet weather is plausible, and early-warning systems could develop this capacity further.

Inter-American Foundation (IAF)

Over the past year, IAF contributed to Feed the Future by providing grants directly to local grassroots and community-led organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean to address food insecurity, improve resilience in agriculture, and manage natural resources responsibly in underserved communities. This included training for smallholder farmers to improve yields, storage, processing, and the diversity of their production. As of September 30, 2020, the IAF's total active portfolio of 172 food security-related grants valued at \$53 million and complemented by \$62.8 million in grantee contributions directly benefits 172,000 people in 22 countries. In FY 2020, the IAF provided \$14.3 million in new funding for such grants. In response to COVID-19, IAF has invested more than \$10 million to address food insecurity in vulnerable communities by supporting food production and distribution and improving access to markets. IAF's investment in immediate food security represents 47 percent of its response to COVID-19 in FY 2020.

Lessons Learned

Below are insights from IAF grantees, which the IAF plans to build on with project evaluations:

- Farmers who participated in well-organized groups benefited from stable prices, prompt payment for products, and support networks. Good organization improves income stability and decreases the likelihood of migration.
- Low-tech options mitigate drought impacts. Water conservation practices (*e.g.*, storage, drip irrigation, or covered production), native drought-resistant corn and bean seeds, and diversified crops are helping farmers that face persistent drought to produce food.
- Gender and age diversity improve efficiency and decision-making in agricultural production because youth and women bring ideas and perspectives on crop selection and ways to use technology that benefit the operations, profitability, and sustainability of farmer organizations and food security of families.
- Regular feedback and learning are key to improving agriculture and food security. The IAF's model entails robust reporting requirements, monitoring by IAF staff, and peer-to-peer grantee exchanges that challenge grantees to learn from their progress.

Appendix C: Additional Indicators

1. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Indicators for the GFSS, and Glossary of Key Terms can all be referenced in last year's 2019 GFSS Implementation Report found at: <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1867/2019-GFSS-Implementation-Report.pdf>
2. GFSA Crosscut Spending Report (*to be posted on the Feed the Future website following the submission of this report*)
3. FY19 Performance Data (*to be posted on the Feed the Future website following the submission of this report*)