

FEED THE FUTURE TARGET COUNTRY SELECTION

Overview: Following the submission of the [FY 2022 - 2026 Global Food Security Strategy](#) (GFSS) to Congress in October 2021, the U.S. Government (USG) is committed to expanding the list of Feed the Future (FTF) target countries for the next phase of the FTF initiative. The GFSS is a whole-of-government strategy to promote global food security, resilience and nutrition. USAID will lead the GFSS USG departments/agencies¹ (the “interagency”) through a phased, data-driven process to produce a list of target countries for the next phase of USG food security investments.

The interagency will use a set of indicators aligned to the six selection factors as described in the [Global Food Security Act of 2016](#) (GFSA):

1. Level of need
2. Potential for agricultural-led growth
3. Opportunities for partnership
4. Opportunities for regional economic integration
5. USG resource availability
6. Government commitment to food security investment and policy reform

THE FTF TARGET COUNTRY EXPANSION PROCESS WILL TAKE PLACE IN A THREE-PHASE APPROACH FROM OCTOBER 2021 TO APRIL 2022:

COUNTRY CLASSIFICATION PHASE (October - February 2022): During Phase One, USAID will convene an interagency working group and launch the target country selection process. We will use criteria to evaluate lower and lower-middle income countries, along with a set of indicators around the level of need selection factor. The interagency will also hold a series of [stakeholder consultations](#) to provide transparency about the process for country selection and to collect stakeholder input and data to inform country selection. Phase One will result in a short list of countries for further consideration.

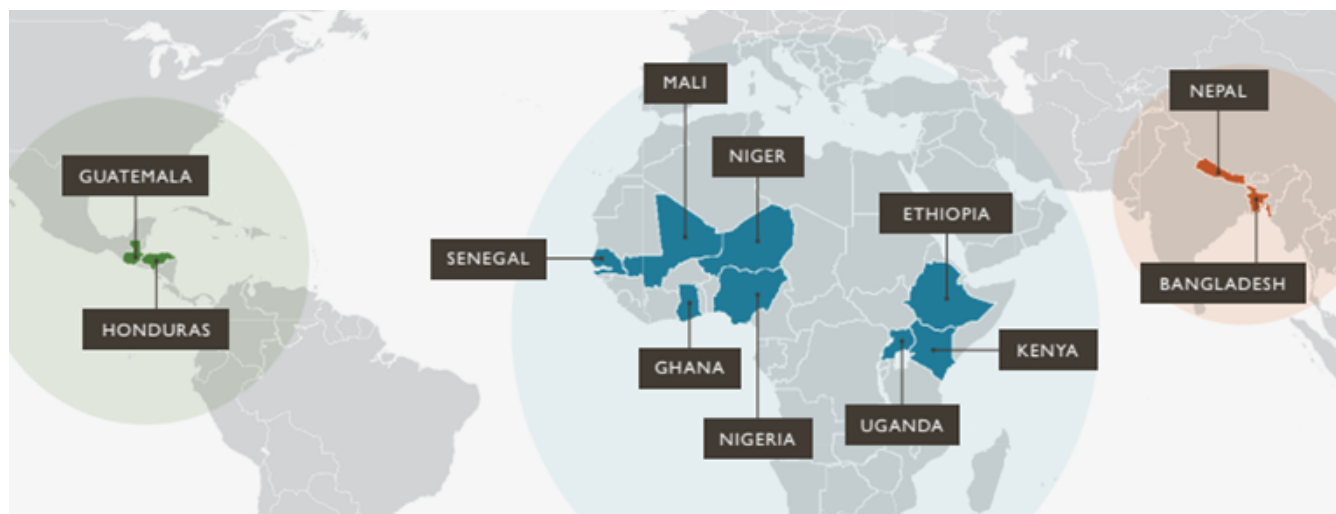
COUNTRY SELECTION PHASE (March - April 2022): During Phase Two, the USG will collect and analyze quantitative and qualitative data on the shortlist of countries identified during Phase One, with a particular focus on the opportunity-based selection factors: potential for agricultural-led growth, opportunities for partnership, opportunities for regional economic integration, USG resource availability, and government commitment to food security investment and policy reform. The interagency will then produce a final ranked list of potential FTF target countries.

¹ The U.S. Government's Global Food Security Strategy was developed by 12 USG agencies and departments: U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of the Treasury, Millennium Challenge Corporation, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, Peace Corps, U.S. African Development Foundation, U.S. Geological Service, the Inter-American Foundation and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

FINALIZATION PHASE (April 2022): During Phase Three, the interagency will design and execute a plan for engaging with host country governments to finalize and confirm the list of recommended target countries. Depending on the country, we will determine the appropriate mechanism for formalizing the selection process. Once formal relationships are established with the governments of each of the target countries, we will publicly announce the expanded list and hold a Washington-based interagency launch event.

During the FTF selection process, **we will not eliminate any of the 12 current target countries.** This means none of the current target countries will be included in our data analysis. This decision is based on recent data from the World Bank that suggests - due to effects of the global pandemic - millions of people in FTF target countries are at risk of falling into extreme poverty, making it difficult to evaluate a country's progress. Therefore, the U.S. has put a pause on target country graduation reviews and will only be adding new countries.

CURRENT FEED THE FUTURE TARGET COUNTRIES



WHAT IS A FEED THE FUTURE TARGET COUNTRY? FTF target countries are the flagship bilateral investments of FTF and are where we think can move the needle forward in achieving FTF's topline goals of reducing poverty, hunger and stunting. In target countries, we do a few things:

1. Advocate for larger budgets.
2. Focus additional technical assistance.
3. Develop an interagency target country plan outlining the interagency's shared responsibility to implement the GFSS and report on a subset of indicators, as applicable.
4. Identify a "zone of influence," which is a defined geography where FTF focuses its efforts and measures its impact.
5. Share common goals of reducing poverty and stunting and report against a common results framework (included in the GFSS) and set of indicators.

WHAT IS A FEED THE FUTURE ALIGNED COUNTRY? FTF aligned countries include any countries with Feed the Future investments. We will continue to have FTF aligned countries, which are encouraged to incorporate elements of target country requirements into their planning, as appropriate and feasible given their level of funding, but they are not required to do so. Aligned countries are required to

report results and future year targets annually but are not required to meet the specific requirements that target countries are responsible for.

Please contact Rachel Mahmud (ramahmud@usaid.gov) or Mike Reilly (mreilly@usaid.gov) with any questions about the FTF target country expansion process.

Last updated: March 2022