Agency Priority Goal Action Plan

Food Security and Resilience

Goal Leaders:

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Overview

Goal Statement

Increase food security and resilience in Feed the Future target countries. By September 30, 2019, Feed the Future will exhibit an average reduction in the prevalence of poverty and stunting of 20 percent, across target regions in Feed the Future's focus countries, since the beginning of the initiative in FY 2010.

Challenges

- Despite progress in global food security and nutrition, there are nearly 800 million hungry people in the world today. By 2050, the global population is estimated to be more than nine billion, compared to 7.5 billion now.
- Food security supports national security and advances global prosperity and stability. We have seen that where hunger and poverty persist, instability and resentment can grow.

Overview

Opportunities

- o The Global Food Security Act (GFSA) of 2016, which was reauthorized in 2018, and the subsequent Global Food Security Strategy (GFSS), endorses Feed the Future's approach to increasing food security and nutrition.

- o Feed the Future is expanding opportunity for millions of people, empowering women and girls, and helping to expand growth to more people.

- o Together with other U.S. departments and agencies, partner governments from around the world, global organizations, and leading American businesses, non-profits, universities, and research institutions, we are using the best parts of American leadership, entrepreneurship, research, technology and talent to help some of the world's poorest countries and communities harness the power of agriculture and entrepreneurship to jumpstart their economies and create new opportunities for people at every level of their societies.

Overview

<u>Core Team</u>

Led by USAID, Feed the Future draws on the agricultural, trade, investment, development, and policy resources and expertise of several Federal Departments and Agencies. FtF has two deputy coordinators who lead the initiative and help the U.S. Government target activities toward a common vision:

- The *Feed the Future Deputy Coordinator for Development* at USAID drives the interagency process to ensure relevant U.S. Government Agencies and Departments are engaged in formulating policies, strategies, and monitoring criteria for FtF; and
- The *Feed the Future Deputy Coordinator for Diplomacy* at the Department of State leads diplomatic efforts to advance our priorities, focused on policy coordination among major donors, strategic partners, and international organizations.

Goal Structure and Strategies

The Food-Security Agency Priority Goal will report progress made in implementing the U.S. Government's *Global Food-Security Strategy* (GFSS). This strategy reflects the unique skills, resources, and lessons learned from across the several Federal agencies contributing to the U.S. government's global hunger and food security initiative – Feed the Future; as well as results from partnerships across the U.S. private sector, academic and research institutions, and civil society.

The overarching goal of the *GFSS* is to sustainably reduce global hunger, malnutrition, and poverty through three, interrelated, and interdependent, objectives:
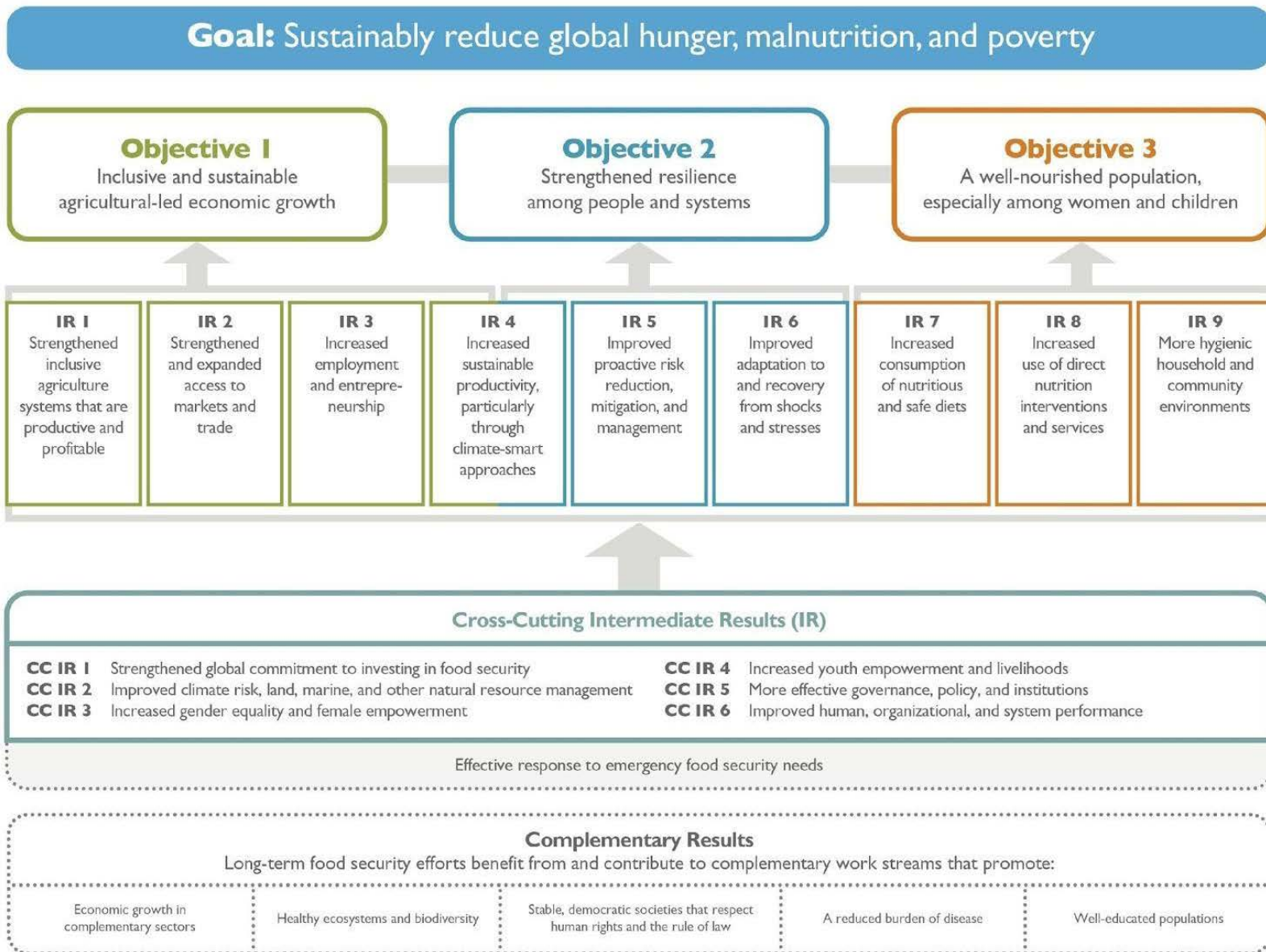
- **Inclusive, sustainable, agricultural-led economic growth**, shown in some areas to be more effective than growth in other sectors at helping men and women lift themselves out of extreme poverty and hunger.
- **Strengthened resilience among people and systems**, as increasingly frequent and intense shocks and stresses threaten the ability of men, women, and families to sustainably emerge from poverty. FtF pays particular attention to increasing resilience and reducing root causes of hunger among vulnerable populations in countries with recurrent food crises that receive U.S. humanitarian assistance.
- **A well-nourished population**, especially among women and children, as undernutrition, particularly during the 1,000 days from pregnancy to a child's second birthday, leads to lower levels of educational attainment, productivity, lifetime earnings, and economic-growth rates.

Key External Factors

The principal challenge for Feed the Future in achieving reductions in hunger, poverty, and malnutrition are external risk factors that can inhibit progress, such as shocks and stresses like food crises and conflict, and changing host-government priorities. For Feed the Future target countries, implementation strategies will account for these externalities by allowing a certain degree of flexibility in their programming and assumptions to address unforeseen events. Individual USAID Missions also account for changing conditions through periodic review, stock-taking, and adjustments of each overarching Country Development Cooperation Strategy.

GFSS Results Framework

Goal: Sustainably reduce global hunger, malnutrition, and poverty

Objective 1
Inclusive and sustainable agricultural-led economic growth

Objective 2
Strengthened resilience among people and systems

Objective 3
A well-nourished population, especially among women and children

IR 1 Strengthened inclusive agriculture systems that are productive and profitable

IR 2 Strengthened and expanded access to markets and trade

IR 3 Increased employment and entrepreneurship

IR 4 Increased sustainable productivity, particularly through climate-smart approaches

IR 5 Improved proactive risk reduction, mitigation, and management

IR 6 Improved adaptation to and recovery from shocks and stresses

IR 7 Increased consumption of nutritious and safe diets

IR 8 Increased use of direct nutrition interventions and services

IR 9 More hygienic household and community environments

Cross-Cutting Intermediate Results (IR)

CC IR 1 Strengthened global commitment to investing in food security
CC IR 2 Improved climate risk, land, marine, and other natural resource management
CC IR 3 Increased gender equality and female empowerment
CC IR 4 Increased youth empowerment and livelihoods
CC IR 5 More effective governance, policy, and institutions
CC IR 6 Improved human, organizational, and system performance

Effective response to emergency food security needs

Complementary Results
Long-term food security efforts benefit from and contribute to complementary work streams that promote:

| Economic growth in complementary sectors | Healthy ecosystems and biodiversity | Stable, democratic societies that respect human rights and the rule of law | A reduced burden of disease | Well-educated populations |

Summary of Progress

Progress and Challenges of Feed the Future

Today, the world faces an increasingly complex set of challenges that threaten progress on ending hunger and make the road ahead more difficult. Feed the Future's accountability for results is a hallmark of its approach. All of USAID's U.S. Government partners report program results that contribute to the *U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy* (GFSS). USAID and Feed the Future have updated the program's system for monitoring, evaluation, and learning to track results more efficiently and learn continuously from and improve its efforts.

What is changing:

- Creating new and updated performance indicators;
- Collecting baseline data for Feed the Future's target countries;
- Incorporating national-level data and analysis; and
- Increasing emphasis on building national data systems.

Summary of progress under the FY 2018-2019 Agency Priority Goal (APG):

Based on the measured interim results, USAID estimates that it exceeded the APG Goal target of a 20-percent reduction in stunting after five years. [1] Similarly, the Agency estimates it met the APG Goal target of a 20-percent reduction in poverty after six years. Further collection of data is ongoing and measured results will be available in FY 2020.

The Agency consistently exceeded Feed the Future's targets for the annual indicators for the number of people that are applying improved technologies and children reached with nutrition interventions, while results were mixed for the indicators for the value of smallholder incremental sales and private sector investment leveraged. USAID saw significant decreases in results for sales and people who are applying improved technologies in FY 2018 because of four very large value-chain projects that ended in FY 2017 and a delay in awarding follow-on projects or projects that began, but did not yet report results, in FY 2018.

USAID met almost all of its quarterly targets for Feed the Future evaluations, for a total of 42 posted during the period to support program learning and adaptation. In addition, USAID completed most of its implementation milestones on time, although a number of ongoing change processes have delayed completion of the last two milestones.

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[1] USAID computed average rates of change at the initiative level by using a statistical approach that accounted for the number of people in each Feed the Future targeted geographic area and the length of time between each baseline and midline survey. The Agency then used these average rates of change to estimate the length of time required to meet the APG target of a 20-percent reduction in poverty and stunting, by using a formula that accounts for compounding rates of change year-to-year.

Key Indicator 1: Number of individuals who have applied improved management practices or technologies
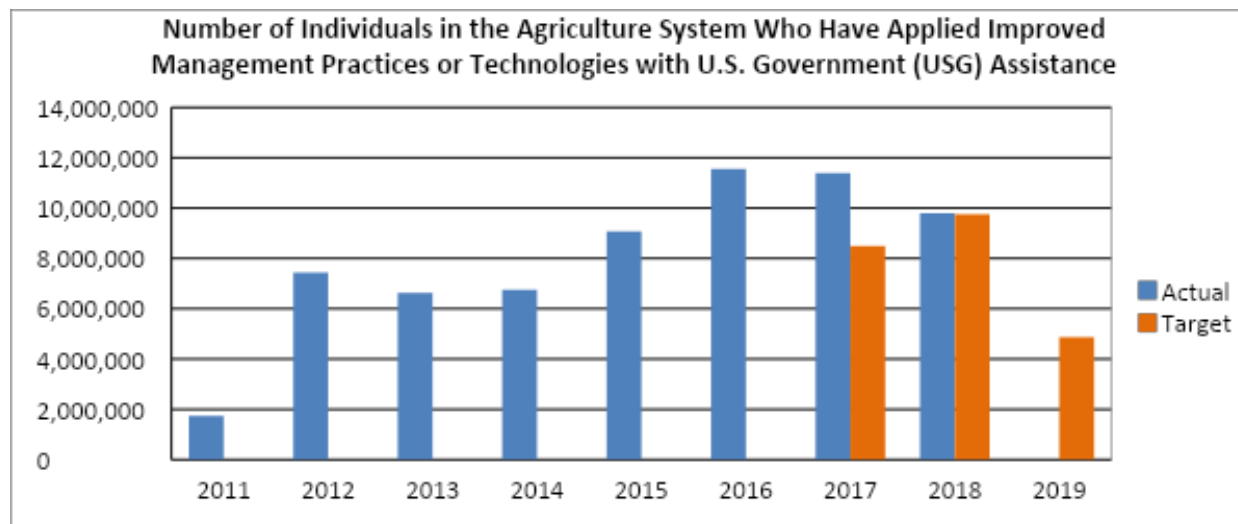

Number of Individuals in the Agriculture System Who Have Applied Improved Management Practices or Technologies with U.S. Government (USG) Assistance

Deviation narrative: Feed the Future changed the Feed the Future Monitoring System indicator used to report this APG indicator in FY 2018.

Old indicator: "Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices with U.S. Government assistance."

New indicator: "Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance."

While the number of people included in the indicator has increased, as the definition of "others" has expanded under the new indicator, the old indicator accounts for 91 percent of the FY 2018 actual reported, and producers have always accounted for a very large majority of the total under the indicator (*e.g.*, 98 percent in 2015 to 2018). Thus, any potential overestimation because of the expanded definition of "other" in under the new indicator is very minimal, if any.

USAID met the FY 2018 target. The major reason for the decrease in actuals from FY 2017 to FY 2018 is that four very large value chain projects ended in FY 2017, and USAID had not yet awarded follow-on projects, or had not yet started to report results.

Key Indicator 2: Value of incremental sales of smallholder farmers receiving USG assistance
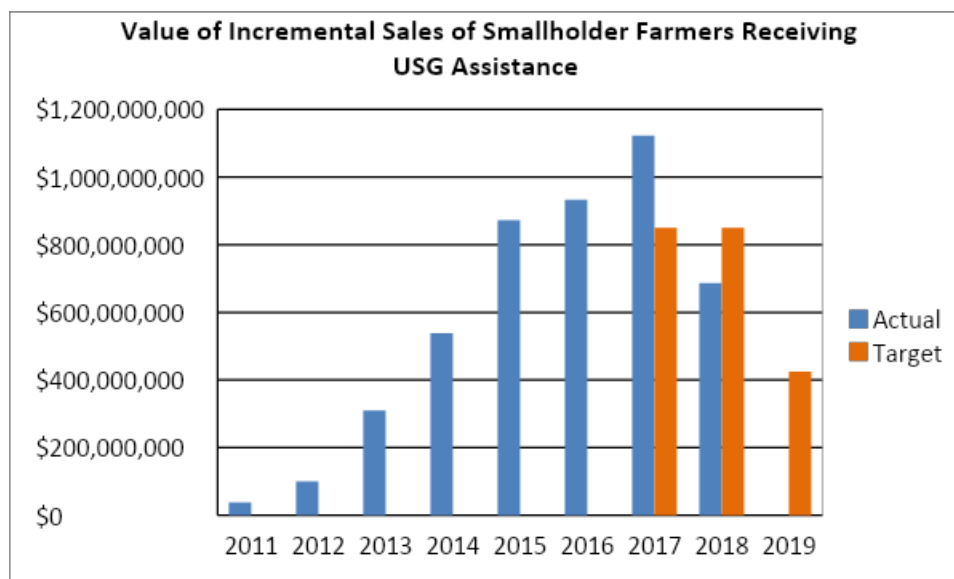
Value of Incremental Sales of Smallholder Farmers Receiving USG Assistance

Deviation narrative: Feed the Future changed the Feed the Future Monitoring System indicator used to report this APG indicator in FY 2018.

Old Indicator: Value of smallholder incremental sales generated with USG assistance.

New Indicator: Value of annual sales of farms and firms receiving USG assistance.

There are substantial differences between the indicators. The new indicator 1) includes sales from all assisted producers, not just smallholders; 2) adds in sales of assisted firms; and, 3) reports total annual sales, not incremental sales (*i.e.*, the difference between total annual sales and baseline sales adjusted for any change in the number of participants).

These differences are so significant that USAID is not using data from the new indicator to complete FY 2019 reporting as shown in the graph. Instead, it used a two-step process to convert the annual sales of farms and firms to a measure of the incremental sales of smallholders.

In the first step, from the new indicator that captures sales on all farms and firms, the Agency extracted just smallholder total annual sales. It then combined those data with smallholder total annual sales collected under the old incremental sales indicator to get FY 2018 smallholder total annual sales. In the second step, to estimate smallholder incremental sales, USAID computed the proportion that smallholder incremental sales were of annual sales in FY 2017 (42 percent) and applied that proportion to FY 2018 smallholder total annual sales. Then the Agency compared this estimate against the FY 2018 incremental sales target. USAID will repeat this process when reporting against the FY 2019 APG targets for incremental sales.

The FY 2018 actual is 81 percent of the FY 2018 target. The major reason for the decrease in actuals from FY 2017 to FY 2018 is that four very large value chain projects ended in FY 2017, and USAID had not yet awarded follow-on projects, or had not yet started to report results.

Key Indicator 3: Value of private sector investment leveraged by the USG to support Food Security and Nutrition

Value of Incremental Sales of Smallholder Farmers Receiving USG Assistance
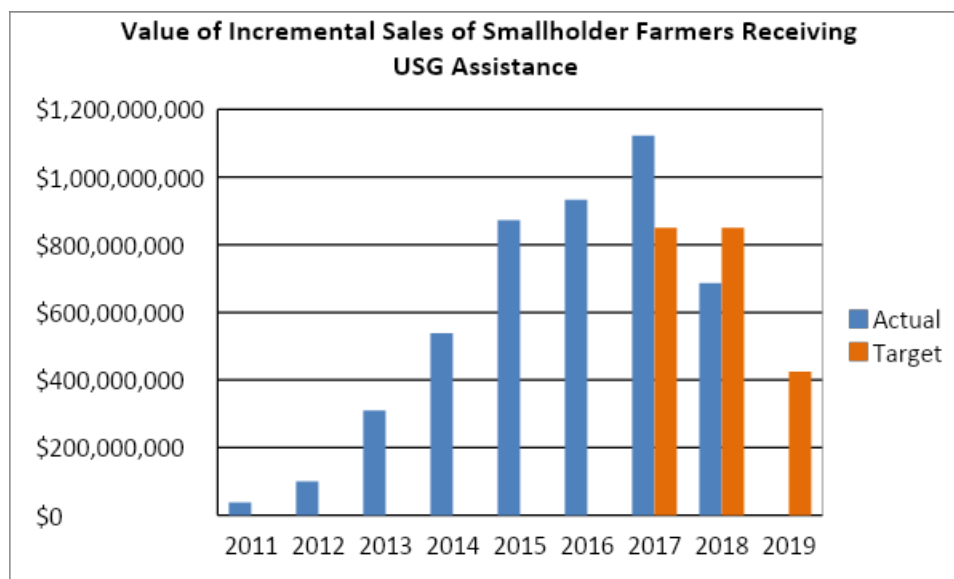
Deviation narrative: The Feed the Future Monitoring System indicator used to report this APG indicator changed in FY 2018.

Old indicator EG.3.2-22: "Value of new private sector capital investment in the agriculture sector or food chain leveraged by Feed the Future implementation."

New indicator EG.3.1-14: "Value of new USG commitments and private sector investment leveraged by the USG to support food security and nutrition."

FY 2018 results could overestimate the value of investments of private-sector capital because the new indicator includes operating capital investment in addition to durable capital investments, which the old indicator reported exclusively. However, the overestimation amount is likely to be low, since almost 90 percent of the results reported come from the old indicator.

Key Indicator 4: Number of children under age five reached with nutrition-specific interventions through USG-supported programs
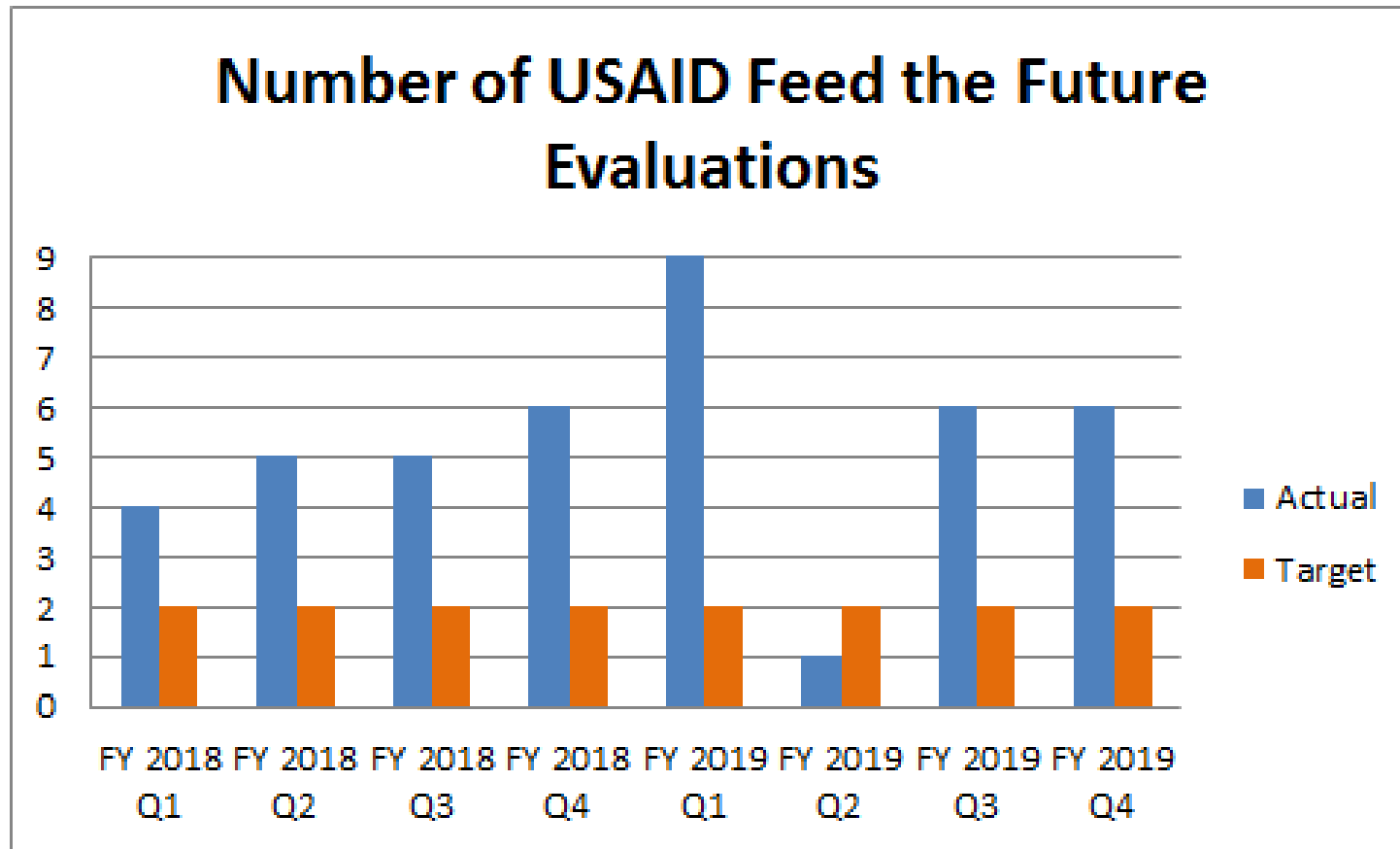

Number of Children under Age Five Reached with Nutrition-Specific Interventions through USG-Supported Programs
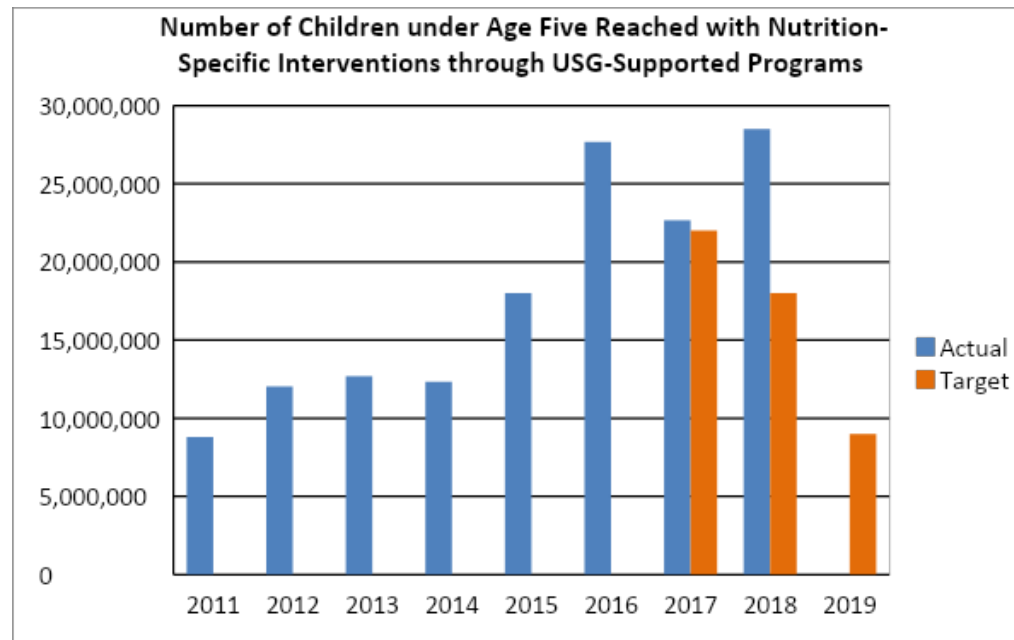
Deviation narrative: USAID exceeded the target for Fiscal Year 18 by 58 percent. These results include some USAID activities beyond those funded by Feed the Future. These data represent the aggregate of country-wide results from nutrition interventions delivered through Feed the Future; development programs funded by the Office of USAID Food for Peace within the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance programs; and nutrition programs funded by the USAID Bureau for Global Health as part of a multi-sectoral effort to combat malnutrition. Individual USAID projects are instructed to count children only once even if USG-funded programs reach them several times.

Key Indicator 5: Number of USAID Feed the Future Evaluations

Number of USAID Feed the Future Evaluations

Key Milestones

Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter
Complete at least 10 Bureau for Food Security (BFS)/Mission Feed the Future (FtF) performance reviews.	Quarter (Q)3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2018	Complete	USAID completed performance reviews for Ethiopia, Uganda, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Bangladesh, Mali, Guatemala, Nepal, Honduras, and Nigeria.
Complete and post the revised FtF Learning Agenda.	Q4, FY 2018	Complete	Publicly launched for public comment at the meeting of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) on September 12, 2018.
Complete and post 12 *GFSS* Target Country plans.	Q4, FY 2018	Complete	All Country Plans are complete and public at: https://www.usaid.gov/sustaining-FtF-progress.
Complete policy matrices for 12 *GFSS* Target Countries.	Q1, FY 2019	Complete	All 12 target countries completed policy matrices focusing on 138 policies in seven areas.
Complete three, formal knowledge-sharing events during the quarter.	Q2, FY 2019	Complete	USAID launched four, formal knowledge-sharing events, which exceeded the expected target for the quarter.
Complete at least 10 BFS/Mission FtF performance reviews.	Q3, FY 2019	In Progress	USAID completed seven BFS portfolio reviews. Due to USAID's Transformation efforts and developing a new country support model, three mission FtF performance reviews have been postponed to Q1 FY 2020.
Complete Learning Agenda synthesis and update.	Q4, FY 2019	In Progress	USAID is reassessing its methodology for the Feed the Future Learning Agenda to align better with USAID's Transformation efforts and guidance from the Office of Management and Budget for the implementation of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act.

Data Accuracy and Reliability

Data to support the Agency Priority Goal on Food Security are primarily from inputs to the FtF Monitoring System (FtFMS), updated annually.

FtFMS is part of an interagency effort to consolidate U.S. Government reporting on FtF activities. Currently, six U.S. Departments and Agencies contribute annual performance data to FtFMS, including the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and the Treasury, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Peace Corps, and the U.S. African Development Foundation. FtFMS indicator data are the official results for FtF aggregated and posted on www.usaid.gov/data for the purposes of transparency.

FtF verifies performance data using Data-Quality Assessments (DQAs), and the numbers must meet standards of validity, integrity, precision, reliability, and timeliness. Each USAID Operating Unit must document the methodology used to conduct the DQAs. DQA and data-source records are maintained in the Performance Management Plans, as described in USAID's Automated Directive System (ADS) Chapter 201.3.2.16, https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1870/201.pdf).

To ensure the quality of data, USAID works closely with interagency partners and its implementing partners to review and validate the data. FtF releases data annually in the FtF Progress Report (https://feedthefuture.gov/progress). Some results from Fiscal Years (FY) 2011 to 2016 have been revised based on additional information provided after publication for previous years.

As FtF quarterly indicators milestones focus primarily on the achievement of key activities or the public release of materials, the initiative will measure data based on the status of reaching programmatic priorities.

Data Accuracy and Reliability

Timing and Availability of Data

FtFMS collects data following the end of the Fiscal Year in which the activities occurred. Based on the time needed to consolidate and validate global data from across the initiative, including from implementing partners and U.S. interagency partners, FtF generally does not release progress data until well into the following fiscal year. FY 2019 data for food-security will not be available until the end of the fourth quarter of FY 2020.

Target-Setting

The Agency adjusted the FY 2018 and FY 2019 out-year targets to reflect the FY 2018 and FY 2019 President's Budgets for USAID's food-security programs. Out-year targets may also reflect the ending of existing activities and the transition to new activities that have not yet started and thus have not set targets yet.

Additional Information

Contributing Programs

Contributing programs to the Food Security and Resilience APG include a range of efforts from across the U.S. Government in support of the *GFSS*, see Annex 1: Agency-specific Implementation Plans of the *GFSS* (https://feedthefuture.gov/resource/us-government-global-food-security-strategy-fy-2017-2021) and Appendix 2: *GFSS* Agency Implementation Plan Updates (https://feedthefuture.gov/resource/us-government-global-food-security-strategy-implementation-report-2017) for the details of the contributions of individual U.S. Departments and Agencies participating in 2017.

Stakeholder/Congressional Consultations

Congress supports the U.S. Government's food-security efforts by passing The Global Food Security Act (GFSA) of 2016, which was reauthorized in 2018, and the subsequent Global Food Security Strategy (GFSS), which reinforce the U.S. Government's commitment to empower small-scale producers, strengthen communities and economies through agricultural-led development, and improve resilience among the most vulnerable populations in areas facing recurrent food crises that receive U.S. emergency food assistance. Feed the Future collaborates with a diverse group of government, private-sector, and civil-society partners to align and leverage resources in science and technology to sustainably reduce global poverty, hunger and malnutrition and strengthen resilience among people and systems to help countries move beyond the need for aid and achieve their own Journey to Self-Reliance. USAID, with its interagency partners, continues to engage with Congress and other stakeholders on the implementation of the GFSS. This includes the completion of country plans for Feed the Future target countries; the further development of stakeholder-collaboration platforms; and refinement of the monitoring, evaluation, and learning approach to track progress and facilitate the sharing of learning and best practices.