



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ENDING HUNGER IN AFRICA

Global Partnerships in Agriculture





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ERIC WITTE



LORI WASELCHUK/WFP



“ We are united in our belief that famine is preventable in the 21st century. Famine, food insecurity, and malnutrition have many complex causes, and defeating them will require a global partnership between the governments of affected countries, donors, international institutions, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations.”

– President George W. Bush, Sea Island, 2004



The Challenge

It is estimated that one in three people on the African continent are currently undernourished and that more than a third of all the world’s undernourished people reside in sub-Saharan Africa. Widespread poverty drives Africa’s hunger problem.

A Solution

The President’s Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA) was launched in 2002 to meet one of the greatest challenges of our time – hunger driven by pervasive poverty in Africa.

To grow out of poverty, African leaders have recognized that increased economic growth, driven by agriculture, is essential. Farmers and agricultural firms need to generate profits and incomes from their products and services. IEHA supports African leadership. It is:

- Building economic governance and global partnerships that can effectively create the conditions for agriculture to flourish
- Exploiting the power of markets, especially regional markets, to create regional growth and stimulate private sector agribusiness investments
- Harnessing science and technology to support smallholder agriculture and stimulate employment and investment in the agricultural sector
- Meeting the needs of the vulnerable, especially the persistently poor and hungry

USAID is leading the President’s initiative.

Through sustained investments in agriculture-based programs that are carried out in conjunction with programs to improve health, education, infrastructure, environment, and public policy management, USAID is introducing political and technical options for reversing the trends of hunger and poverty in Africa.



“ ...one of the most lasting solutions that agriculture has to offer in ending hunger is to increase agricultural productivity and raise rural incomes.”

– Andrew S. Natsios, USAID Administrator

Eliminating Cassava Mosaic Disease

In response to an epidemic of cassava mosaic disease (CMD) that severely impacted cassava yields, scientists in Africa developed disease-resistant cassava varieties. Since the introduction of CMD-resistant cassava, production has more than doubled in Uganda. Because scientists also noted that CMD is associated with white flies, current research includes white fly studies and control methods. Working toward the next generation of more resistant varieties, the Danforth Plant Science Center and African researchers in Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, and Southern Africa are working to develop bioengineered cassava. Trials of the new cassava were initiated in Kenya in 2005.

USAID supports a partnership of international and African research institutes as well as nongovernmental organizations to develop and deliver technologies to control CMD and increase cassava production across East, Central, and Southern Africa.



Ending Hunger by Promoting Global Partnerships

The cycle of hunger in sub-Saharan Africa begins and ends with poverty – the inability to grow or purchase food causes malnutrition and poor health, which in turn lead to the inability to earn income and to deeper poverty.

Because hunger and poverty also breed unrest and social instability, ending hunger in Africa is a global challenge that requires global participants to find a sustainable solution.

USAID programs promote partnerships between African leaders, African governments, regional organizations, multilateral development institutions, the private sector, universities, and other nongovernmental organizations by:

- Supporting multicountry efforts that induce and encourage agricultural growth
- Supporting the efforts of countries and leaders committed to agricultural growth as a critical development pathway to end hunger
- Forging effective linkages between potential partners for education, health, macroeconomic reform, and infrastructure improvement

- Building alliances and a broad-based political and financial commitment among public and private development partners – both in Africa and internationally – to cut hunger in half by 2015

With these global partners, USAID is working to develop programs and policies that open up markets to agricultural trade, improve infrastructure, support small-scale farmers, provide safety nets to the most vulnerable groups, and exploit technological advances.

In 2004, IEHA developed 157 partnerships and leveraged \$214 million from the private sector, governments, and civil society to support IEHA-related development programs.

Ending Hunger through Science and Technology

Science and technology are key to providing innovations that increase agricultural productivity while reducing vulnerabilities and risks. The tools of science – including breeding, biotechnology, and natural resources management practices – are already improving sustainable agriculture. Just a few successes to date include:

- Disease-resistant crops, including bananas, cassava, cowpea, and maize

- Drought-resistant crops such as maize for marginal areas
- Crops with increased nutritional value, such as high-vitamin A sweet potatoes
- New crops, including new rice varieties such as NERICA (New Rice for Africa)
- Improved soil fertility and other natural resource management practices

The essence of the USAID science and technology strategy is to develop joint programs and partnerships between U.S. universities, international researchers, and African researchers that:

- Invest in agricultural research, institution building, networking, and human capacity building
- Accelerate science-based solutions to spur agricultural growth and incomes
- Use information technology and biotechnology to improve productivity and reduce poverty and hunger
- Address the policy and regulation dimensions of using biotechnology for research, food security, and trade in Africa

A New Framework for African Agriculture

Endorsed by African heads of state and governments, the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) of the New Partnership for Africa's Development provides the framework for collaborative action to restore agriculture growth and rural development in Africa, as well as the mechanism for African peer review at the policy level in agriculture. A key target of the program is to achieve an annual growth rate in agriculture of 6 percent.

CAADP is African-led with a financial and political commitment to achieve common program objectives, including:

- Extending the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems
- Improving rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for market access

- Increasing food supply, reducing hunger, and improving responses to food emergency crises
- Improving agriculture research and technology dissemination and adoption

“We as African leaders have taken the lead in highlighting the critical role agriculture must play in reducing poverty and hunger on the continent.”
–African Heads of State and Government



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TRADE HUBS

At the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum held in Dakar, Senegal in July 2005, President Bush announced the African Global Competitiveness Initiative with a five-year funding target of \$200 million. This new initiative will:

- Expand trade capacity by building on current efforts with African nations through USAID's regional trade hubs located in Accra, Ghana; Gaborone, Botswana; and Nairobi, Kenya
- Support the trade hubs in enabling African economies to become better integrated

into regional and global markets and to take advantage of trade opportunities afforded by AGOA.

As part of the new African Global Competitiveness Initiative, USAID plans to open a new fourth trade hub in Dakar, Senegal, in the fall of 2005.

The trade hubs serve as central points where African and U.S. government agencies, donor and civil society organizations, and the private sector can find information and technical assistance on trade, investment, and business activities in the region.

“Throughout Africa, women are the primary caretakers, holding significant responsibility for tilling the land and feeding their families.”

– Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai

Ending Hunger by Linking Agriculture Producers to Markets

Trade and improved market systems are the critical catalysts for sustained economic growth, food security, and poverty reduction in sub-Saharan Africa.

USAID investments assist governments and regional organizations and build the capacity of private sector organizations to create a supportive environment for the marketing and trade of agricultural products through programs that:

- Encourage policies and institutional environments that are conducive for African agriculture
- Develop agricultural input markets, such as seeds and fertilizers, as well as output markets
- Build physical infrastructures, such as rural roads, necessary for market access
- Facilitate rural employment through agribusiness and value-added processing of agricultural commodities
- Support community- and producer-based agricultural organizations
- Build agricultural trade capacities, develop alliances, and identify opportunities

Ending Hunger by Reaching Out to the Vulnerable

Famine, food insecurity, and malnutrition have many complex causes. Because rural Africans have so few food stocks and little income, droughts and other shocks can quickly trigger famine conditions. This is especially true for rural women, who are among the poorest of the poor and who account for the bulk of food production in Africa.

Projections indicate that by 2011 Africa will account for one-half of the undernourished people in the world. At the same time, the spread of major infectious diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS are resulting in extraordinarily high death rates.

Combined, these factors are draining labor and productivity from the rural economy.

As exemplified in Ethiopia, USAID is working with its G8 partners, the government, private sector, and local NGOs to break the cycle of famine by supporting sustainable agriculture programs that:

- Protect and build assets
- Develop integrated nutrition strategies and implement community-based nutrition programs
- Assist countries to analyze the impact of HIV/AIDS on agriculture
- Reduce the vulnerability of the poor to weather-, market-, and conflict-induced shocks
- Enhance the capacity of countries to manage shocks and address root causes of food insecurity

Few countries can emerge from poverty without sustained growth in agriculture. By

integrating vulnerable populations into its sustainable agricultural programs, USAID investments nurture rural livelihoods and promote agricultural growth.

“This is indeed an opportune time for us and our partners to coordinate and harmonize our program and mobilize support for the development of Africa...”

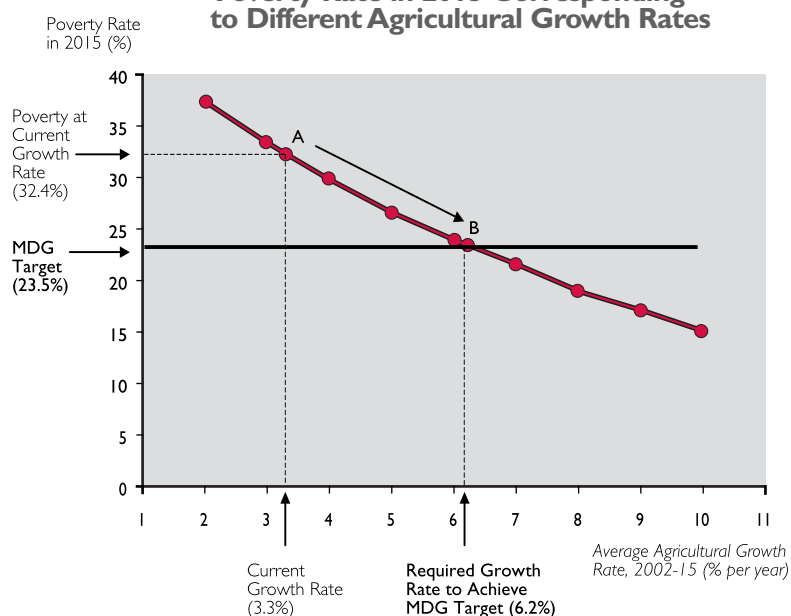
– UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan

Over 200,000 men and women have received training on a broad range of topics, including market analyses and development, record keeping, crop quality control, post-harvest handling, product grading, and aggregation of commodities.



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Poverty Rate in 2015 Corresponding to Different Agricultural Growth Rates



In order to meet the MDGs of cutting poverty in half by 2015, annual agriculture growth will have to increase from 3.3 to 6.2 percent.

Ending Hunger through USAID Programs

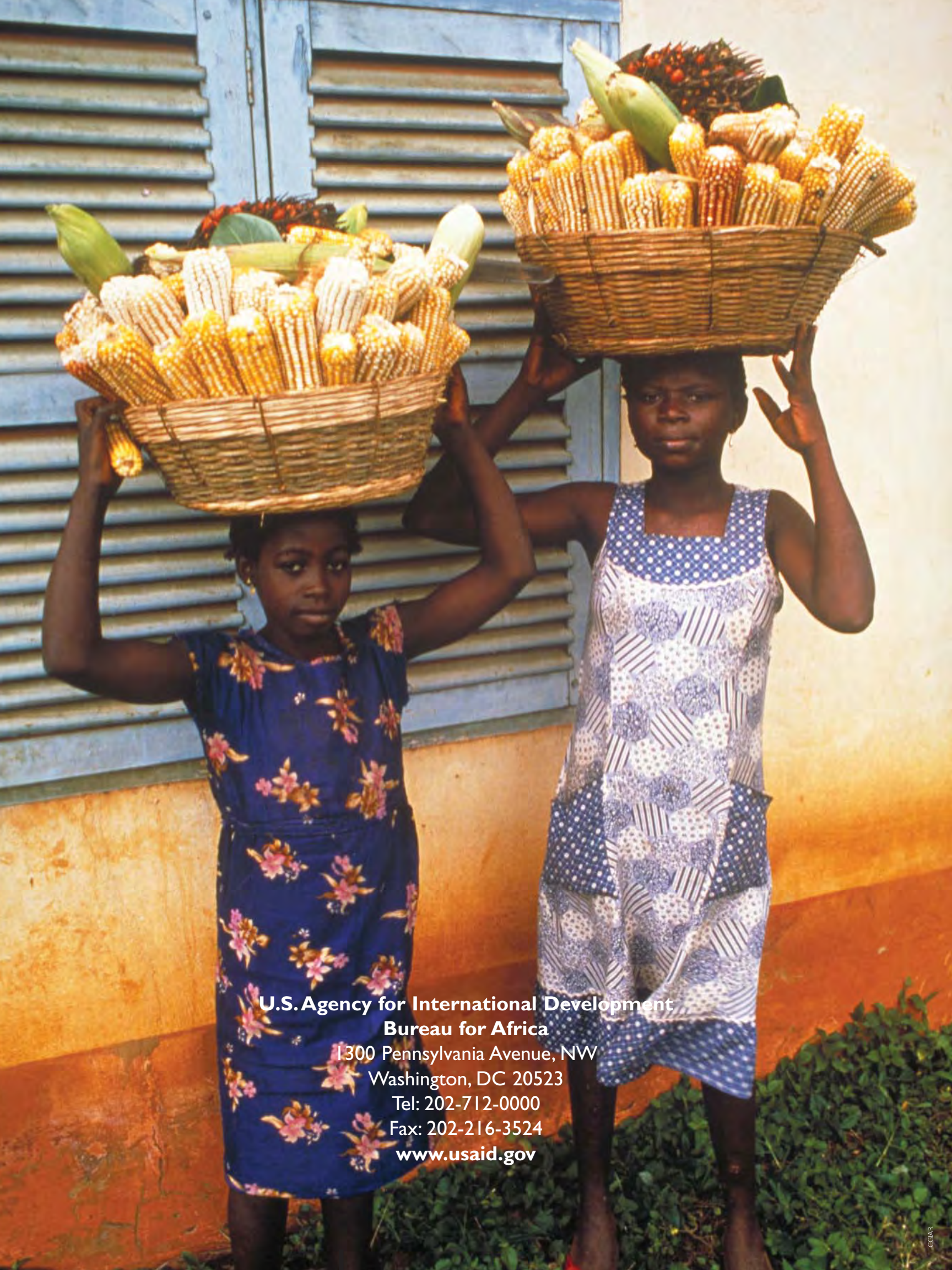
USAID supports agricultural initiatives in Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Uganda, and Zambia, as well as the three regional missions that support multicountry efforts in East, West, and Southern Africa.

Nearly 3 million individuals in rural Africa have benefited from USAID programs that improved market access, increased on-farm production, and increased household incomes. Highlights of just a few USAID program results include:

- An estimated 100 new agricultural technologies were made available to rural communities and producers in 20 countries in 2005.
- Improved mango seedlings, corn seeds, and fertilizers have increased access to food as well as farm incomes in Ghana.
- Improved storage has enabled farmers in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania to store fresh sweet potato roots for up to three months and reduce storage losses.
- In Kenya, 800 farmer groups meet compliance with new EU Food and Fee regulations – a crucial aspect of marketing in Europe.
- South Africa and Zambia are completing pest risk assessments that will make it easier to export specific crops to the United States.
- West African programs are spawning a large number of farmer-owned agribusinesses to produce and market improved varieties of rice, maize, sorghum, and millet.
- Trade in selected commodities has increased by 15 percent in East Africa through improved technologies and access to market information.
- Laboratories recently constructed in Mali will help ensure agricultural food products are pesticide-free before entering the food chain.
- New programs in Mozambique combine agriculture extension and nutrition education to reach more than 200,000 poor rural families.
- Improved seed varieties are improving the profitability of crops and decreasing the need for insecticides that can harm the environment and damage human health.
- In Zambia, Uganda, and Malawi, USAID is assisting the ministries of agriculture to examine the impact of HIV/AIDS on different cropping systems.







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