



# United States of America and FAO

*Partnering for sustainable development and global food security*

The United States and FAO enjoy a special relationship: the Organization was conceived during a meeting at Hot Springs, Virginia, in 1943 and its headquarters was first based in Washington, DC. Today, the United States is one of the largest contributors to FAO's budget and a key resource partner. Major areas of cooperation include emergency assistance and resilience building, food safety, sustainable agricultural production and natural resource management. FAO's Liaison Office in North America continuously works to leverage and strengthen partnerships with policy-shaping institutions and with the United States and Canadian Governments.



## Support to emergency response and resilience building

We cannot hope to end hunger and poverty and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals without creating resilient livelihoods in a world where nearly one billion people are deprived of adequate food. Natural and conflict-related disasters disproportionately affect the food-insecure rural poor, over 75 percent of whom derive their livelihoods from agriculture.

A key priority for FAO is to increase the resilience of livelihoods to these threats and crises by integrating humanitarian and development activities.

The United States is a major supporter of FAO's work in this area, including large programmes to enhance food security and nutrition through the promotion of conservation agriculture (and other climate change adaptation measures) in Timor-Leste and Indonesia; to support cash-based interventions in Somalia; and to improve food security in South Sudan.

### CONTACTS

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## Multiple sources of support

United States contributes to FAO programmes and activities through a variety of national channels:

- **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**.
- **Through the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), Office of Food for Peace (FFP), Office of Infectious Diseases, Bureau for Global Health, USAID** supports a wide range of projects, including strengthening resilience, improving food security cluster coordination, cash-based interventions, emergency livelihoods assistance, prevention and response to zoonotic diseases and disaster risk reduction.
- **Department of Agriculture (USDA)**, which supports microbiological risk assessment; soil fertility management; diseases at the human-animal interface; climate-smart agriculture and natural resource management.
- **Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**, which strengthens global food safety through improved food control systems.
- **Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)**, which supports global post-eradication cooperation on rinderpest, disease surveillance, intelligence and early warning systems; and international engagement to prevent and mitigate threats from especially dangerous pathogens in East African target countries.
- **Department of State**, which works to enhance the capacity of agriculture sector stakeholders to engage in policy dialogues.
- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**, which supports implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and efforts to combat IUU fishing.

FAO also benefits from the secondment of experts from various national partners, such as USDA and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

## A new era in agricultural data collection

In September 2016, FAO and USAID initiated a new approach to help countries track progress towards development goals, improve the evidence base for policy-making and translate policies-into tangible progress. A US\$15 million agreement was signed to collect agricultural data and information that is essential to ensure good policy-making and help monitor the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The USAID donation covers the first phase of a related FAO-led project running from 2016 to 2021, starting in four pilot countries two in sub-Saharan Africa, one in Latin America and one in Asia.

## Prevention and response to zoonotic diseases

Seventy five percent of the new infectious diseases that have emerged in humans over recent decades are estimated to be of animal origin, including Ebola virus disease, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). The control of such zoonotic diseases and emerging threats at the human-animal-ecosystems interface requires an integrated and multidisciplinary approach.



FAO's success in addressing the global HPAI crisis has been largely due to the strong partnership with USAID since the emergence and spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in 2004 in Asia that was responsible for killing millions of poultry, paralyzing the poultry industry in large parts of Asia, and causing high mortality in humans.

Thanks to USAID's long-term commitment, HPAI has now been contained to four to five countries compared with 60 infected countries in 2005.

This partnership has gone from strength to strength, with total funding amounting to US\$340 million over the last ten years. It has enabled FAO to build animal health capacities for addressing high-impact emerging and re-emerging zoonoses by tackling them at the source.

The target countries are: Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam in Asia; Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda in Africa; Egypt, and Jordan in the Near East.

## Global Health Security Agenda

The United States works closely with FAO as well as the World Health Organization and the World Organisation for Animal Health through the Global Health Security Agenda (GHS). The GHS aims to build countries' capacity to help create a world that is safe and secure from infectious disease threats.. This international partnership initiative, launched in 2014, aims to help prevent, detect and respond to emerging disease threats. The United States is taking the lead in promoting GHS, which is aligned with FAO's One Health approach for improving disease intelligence, as well as preventing and mitigating threats from highly pathogenic diseases. The United States has supported several emergency interventions, complemented by capacity-building initiatives, to respond to pandemic threats.

In 2015, USAID extended its collaboration under the Emerging Pandemic Threat phase 2 (EPT-2) and GHS programme to combat animal disease threats – including zoonoses – in Asia, Africa and the Near East through to 2019.

## Smallholder forest producer organizations, agents of SDGs implementation

An estimated 1.5 billion forest and farm producers supply approximately 80 percent of food supplies in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, managing 500 million family farms and approximately 30 percent of forest lands in the global south. Collectively, forest and farm producers have the transformative potential to achieve sustainable development delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and respond to climate change at landscape scales. Since 2013, the Department of State has been a core funder of the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF). FFF provides support to over 400 Forest and Farm Producer Organizations for improved livelihoods and decision-making over forest and farm landscapes. It has already achieved documented success in poverty reduction, policy influence, increased tenure security, improved prices for producers, and business development in ways that reflect greater participation by women and an emphasis on youth involvement.

